



THE ORINDA NEWS

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July 2021

Orinda Votes to Hold Parade Despite COVID-19 Concerns

By KRYS SHAHIN
Staff Writer

On June 2, the Orinda City Council voted 3-2 to go ahead with the town's annual Fourth of July parade this year despite continuing concerns about the COVID-19 pandemic.

The celebration will be a scaled down version of its predecessors after its cancellation last year. It will include the mile-long parade and concert in the Orinda Community Park in the afternoon, but will not include the petting zoo, bouncy houses, bleachers for sitting or food booths that normally bring the community together.

The parade is set to start at 11 a.m. from the Theatre Side of town to allow people to join after Sunday services, according to The Orinda Association President Bill Waterman. If people are unable to participate in person, a livestream will also be made available at 10:30 a.m. for residents to tune into the festivities from home, according to Waterman.

There will be a flag raising ceremony at



RICHARD WESTIN | ORINDA NEWS ARCHIVES
With a 3-2 vote win, Orindans and city officials decided Orinda will have its 4th of July parade this year after all, yet it will be a scaled down version of past year's parade due to safety precautions.



SALLY HOGARTY
The annual **Fourth of July parade** is back. With July 4 falling on a Sunday this year, the parade will start at 11 a.m. rather than the usual 10 a.m. start time. For complete information on the parade and other festivities, see Pages 9-13.

9 a.m., along with the start of the 2-mile "Fun Run for a Reason" to support the Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood Foundation that will last until 10:30 a.m. Participants are encouraged to start and finish their walk/run anytime between 9 and 10:30 a.m. There will be no official start with large groups, but rather staggered small groups.

The City Council authorized the closure of a portion of Moraga Way, Brookwood Road, Camino Pablo, Santa Maria Way and Orinda Way for the parade to take place during their June 2 meeting.

Councilmember Inga Miller and Mayor Amy Worth expressed concern for holding the event this year, but Councilmembers Nick Kosla, Darlene Gee and Vice Mayor [SEE PARADE page 5]

Orinda and Moraga Residents Sign Petition for Baitx' Recusal from MOFD

By KRYS SHAHIN
Staff Writer

After the Moraga-Orinda Fire District (MOFD) Board of Directors controversy about merging with the Contra Costa Fire Protection District (ConFire), the Board now faces another controversy just as incendiary – whether MOFD Director Gregory Baitx should recuse himself from all labor negotiations.

Although the Board agreed to no longer pursue the merger topic, Director Baitx, who put the hot topic on the May agenda, is now under fire by a group of Orinda citizens citing an "apparent conflict of interest."

The alleged conflict of interest involves Director Baitx participating in labor negotiations while being an MOFD board member and an active firefighter with the East Contra Costa Fire Protection District according to Former Mayor Sue Severson.

The Orinda News has made multiple attempts to contact Baitx and as of publication, there has been no response.

Severson said there is a large, grassroots group in the community that "has interest in making sure we keep our excellent level of fire service."

The group of residents, including former Orinda City Council Members, created a website (<https://bit.ly/2U608ni>) defining why they believe Baitx has a conflict of interest. The site also alleges Baitx's union president asked him to put the consider-

ation of the MOFD/ConFire merger on the Board's agenda.

"He is one of three members of the Board aligned with the employees' union, not the residents of Orinda and Moraga," said Orinda resident Steve Cohn in an email. "It is important to demand that Greg Baitx recuse himself, turning a 3:2 majority into [SEE MOFD page 6]"



COURTESY OF MOFD
District 1 Board Member **Gregory Baitx**, an active firefighter and elected by Moraga residents of District 1, was asked to recuse himself from any union business coming before the MOFD Board.

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BOBBIE DODSON

Beekeeper **Anna Lisa Kronman** points to the queen. All the bees are attuned to the queen's scent. Her entire job is laying eggs and she will lay thousands of them over the course of her life.

Orindan Anna Lisa Kronman Provides Good Home for Bees

By **BOBBIE DODSON**
Staff writer

When Miramonte discovered a swarm of bees on campus, Orinda beekeeper Anna Lisa Kronman, a member of Diablo Beekeepers Association, came to the rescue. It was a win-win situation. Kronman got more bees for her hives, and the school rid itself of a problem.

"It's a service of the Association. Call and someone will come," said Kronman.

One of 250 beekeepers in the Lamorinda area, Kronman explained she became one after several nudges.

"My visiting son said, 'Mom, you should keep bees since you have so many plants they favor like lavender and rosemary.' Soon, I found a beekeeper magazine,

Bee Culture, in my mailbox addressed to our cat. Then another. So, I thought I should at least look at them, and it proved interesting," said Kronman. "After six months of this, I said to my husband, 'Let's get some bees and try it.'"

They drove to Sacramento to purchase everything they needed. That was some 10 years ago, and Kronman is hooked.

"Bees are amazing to watch," she said. "I like to take pictures in slow motion really to observe them. All worker bees are female. In the videos, you can see they seem to collect either pollen or nectar. Drones are the male honeybees. Their only function is to fertilize a young queen bee. They are visibly larger and stouter than workers."

Kronman said the queen can vary in size,
[SEE BEES page 3]

OUSD and Parents Address Concerns About New History Textbooks

By **TRISTAN SHAUGHNESSY**
Staff Writer

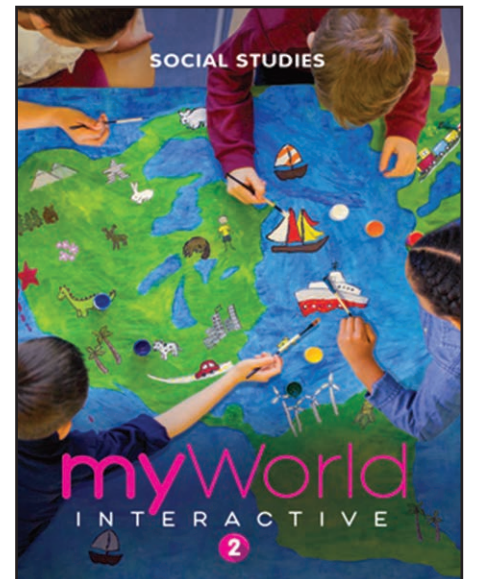
On June 7, the Orinda Union School District's (OUSD) Board of Trustees agreed to purchase new K-5 history textbooks for the upcoming school year after more than an hour of intense debate.

At the meeting, some Orindans expressed concern with the proposed materials, calling selections inaccurate and racist. Residents suggested that instead of purchasing the books for three years, as originally proposed, the Board should approve only a one-year contract and begin looking for other options immediately.

David Schrag, the district's Director of Curriculum and Instruction, however, said such a proposal would not give teachers enough time to learn the material. "Anything shorter than three years would be really tough for our teachers," he said.

Current K-5 history textbooks were adopted in 2006 according to the meeting's agenda. The June OUSD Board discussion came after a year of change for California schools with shifting protocols in place in response to the pandemic and calls for response to Black Lives Matters concerns.

At the high school level, the state's department of education said in a press release that California would be the first in the country to offer a teaching model for high school ethnic studies courses. The



TRISTAN SHAUGHNESSY

Cover illustration for one of the social studies textbooks the OUSD Board agreed to purchase in June; this one comes with controversy from the parents.

statements said that this action would help bring the "voices of marginalized communities" into the classroom in the hopes of promoting "racial justice."

OUSD began the current selection process for a new history textbook in 2019. Schrag said at the June meeting that the district had only four state-supported options from which to choose. After a committee of teachers from every grade level reviewed these materials, he said they agreed that the

[SEE SCHOOLS page 10]

Landmark Mental Health AB-988 Bill Passes Assembly this Month

By **KEN HOGARTY**
Staff Writer

Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan's (D-Orinda) mental health emergency crisis response legislation, AB 988, termed "landmark" by her staff, passed off the Assembly floor June 3 with a vote of 70-0. This "Miles Hall Lifeline and Suicide Prevention Act" follows two other Bauer-Kahan justice reform bills, AB 731 and AB 624, which passed through the assembly the prior week.

AB 988 will implement statewide the new nationwide 9-8-8 Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Crisis Hotline created last year by the Federal Communications Commission and Congress. The new system will provide an alternative to 911. It

aims to deploy mental health professionals, rather than police officers, in situations of mental health crises and address systemic inequalities according to the author.

"We need to finally rethink and redesign how we respond to those in mental health crisis," said Assemblymember Bauer-Kahan. "AB 988 fundamentally changes our approach by putting care and training ahead of confrontation and arrest. It is poignant this bill passed the Assembly on the two-year anniversary of the tragic death of Miles Hall."

The Miles Hall Lifeline Act is named for Miles Hall, a 23-year-old Black man, shot and killed by officers in 2019 while suffering from a mental health crisis. In the case of serious public safety threats, the

[SEE AB 988 page 7]

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THE ORINDA ASSOCIATION

A Message From the OA Board
Enthusiastic Volunteer



Kyle Arteaga

We are thrilled to see you and your neighbors at the Fourth of July parade. It will be the first time we can truly celebrate our newly regained freedoms for us and our country.

Let this remind us that independence is important for all generations. The past year was isolating, especially for our seniors. As we sat in our comfortable houses reconnecting with our families, some of our neighbors were left alone without the ability to shop or care for themselves.

Thankfully, a handful of volunteers continued to drive our seniors to doctors'

appointments, shop for their groceries, and check on them to make sure they were doing okay.

So, when one of our most dependable volunteers had to step back recently, we were sad but understood. Soon after, however, Lucy Berkman walked into the Orinda Association office. Lucy, a 16-year-old high school junior at Miramonte, decided she wanted to give back to the community once distance guidelines ended. And while she isn't old enough to drive for Seniors Around Town (drivers must be 25), she volunteered to shop for some of our seniors

[SEE BOARD page 4]

◆ BEES from page 2

but she is usually only slightly larger than a worker bee. It's her shape that distinguishes her. Her abdomen is long and so are her legs. Her wings are short in comparison with her body and do not reach the end of her abdomen. Her back is bald, black and shiny.

"Because queens are in the business of laying eggs, the most likely place to find your queen is in the nursery," said Kronman.

Kronman feels beekeeping to be time-consuming, though not hard. She added, "It smells good."

She is pleased that some years she gets 50 pounds of honey.

"While I like the honey, I also keep bees because I want to give bees a good spot to be," she said. "I give them a bee hotel, and they pollinate the flowers and fruit trees in my garden."

Items typically needed to start include: bee hives and a stand to keep them off the ground; wooden frames to hold beeswax; smokers, which calm bees and reduce sting-

ing; a hive tool for prying apart frames; veil and gloves or full body suits for protection; and feeders to hold sugar syrup when natural nectar is not available.

While it's estimated there are two trillion bees in the world and 20,000 species, an average hive will have about 30,000 bees. They are the chief pollinators of the world's flowers while providing beauty as well as food. In fact, one-third of the food we eat depends on bees.

Some bees don't produce honey but have a specific purpose. For example, the Dogwood genus, *Cornus*, is kept alive by three rare species of miner bees.

Kronman said pesticides and herbicides can be deadly to bees.

"There is also a mite problem," she said. "In recent years, mites have weakened the bee population. Fortunately, they haven't come to my hives. My purpose is to give bees a safe space to be, so they will thrive, collect pollen and nectar and be revived and provide honey for my morning toast!"

Bobbie Dodson can be reached at bobbiedodson@comcast.net.

Fitness Tip of the Month

The Key to Fitness is Change

In accordance with Newton's first law, a body in motion stays in motion...In eating and physical activity we need periodic variation to induce fat loss and muscle gain. Intermittent measurements tell us when the variation is needed. This is a very efficient way of getting in shape.



For more information, contact Sheena with Living Lean personal training and eating for elite fitness at 925.360.7051 or www.thelivingleanprogram.com.



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The Orinda Association

The Orinda Association is a not-for-profit corporation dedicated to:

- Maintaining and improving the quality of life in Orinda;
- Promoting awareness and discussion of issues that are important to the community;
- Encouraging and recognizing volunteer efforts to enhance the beauty, character and security of Orinda.

Visit our office at 26 Orinda Way
(Library Plaza)
Phone: 254-0800
www.OrindaAssociation.org

The Orinda Association
P.O. Box 97
Orinda, CA 94563

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Orinda July 4th Parade Schedule

July 4th CELEBRATION

09:00 Flag Raising Ceremony

09:00 Fun Run for a Reason: 2-mile walk/run any time between 9 & 10:30
More info at <https://sudc.org/wesley/>

10:00 Library Book Sale (Library Plaza)

10:30 Streaming link to parade begins
Watch the parade from your home at OrindaParade.com/live

11:00 Parade starts on Theatre Side

12:15 Park Band plays in Gazebo
Bring your own picnic or order ahead from local restaurants

Did you know:
The parade stretches for 1 mile from the Theatre Side to the Village Side. There are lots of places along the route for people to view the parade without crowding.

Things to Remember:
Follow CDC, State & County Guidelines.
Masks recommended for anyone not vaccinated.
We support everyone wearing a mask at this first large community event.

Visit www.OrindaParade.com for complete event details

EDITORIAL

Editorial

Change is in the Air and the Newspaper!

With the lifting of most COVID-era restrictions, we are all experiencing more freedom and a return to a more normal pre-pandemic life. We, like many of you, find not wearing masks everywhere a welcome change. But we're also proceeding with caution, as some of our friends and neighbors are still too young to receive the vaccine or have health conditions that make the vaccine dangerous for them.

The same holds true for our Fourth of July Parade. With the support of many Orindans, The Orinda Association will hold the parade this year, but it will be a slightly smaller parade and the festivities in the park are limited to a concert. Masks will also be available and, although not mandatory, are strongly recommended to protect our more vulnerable citizens.

The Orinda News has also instituted a few changes. Our Business Buzz Column usually found on the back page will now be a feature on a local business paired with David Born's Financial Column.

We are grateful to our various Business Buzz writers over the years, Charlie Jarrett, Valerie Nevin and Elana O'Loskey. While Jarrett and Nevin are no longer with the paper, O'Loskey will continue to keep us informed on the visual, and now performing arts, in our area. If you have an idea for a business feature, please contract editor@theorindanews.com.

We also have Miramonte student Ania Keenan as one of our regular writers and Charis Woo as our summer intern (see page 5). It's always a pleasure to work with our talented and energetic teens that keep the

rest of us on our toes!

June always marked the month of graduation, so this issue, we've highlighted 41 talented high school students who won the Poul Anderson Writing Awards (see page 16).

Also check out the American Association of University Women-Orinda, Moraga, Lafayette scholarships awarded to 36 local and deserving young women and teens (page 14), who excelled in STEM programs throughout the academic year.

One thing we know about Orindans is they are passionate about the city they live in and their surrounding communities. You'll find controversy rising up within our MOFD department (see page 1) about conflicts of interests. At *The Orinda News*, we encourage community member voices to speak up by writing letters to the editor, which are due by the 8th of each month prior to the next months' issue. To voice your opinions, send your email to editor@theorindanews.com.

COVID went ahead and messed with so many areas of our lives, to include our local artists who were previously scheduled to showcase their artwork in the Orinda Library gallery from March 2020 forward. Therefore, our writer Elana O'Loskey is happy to present a photo slideshow of 20 curated art pieces on our website, located at <https://bit.ly/3vyoVh2>. Soon, both the Wilder Gallery and Library Gallery will schedule artists' displays on their walls again.

— Sally Hogarty, Executive Editor and Charleen Earley, Editor-in-Chief

Letter to the Editor

Controlling Our Taxes Going To MOFD

By the time this letter is posted, a petition with over 1,000 signatures will have been presented to MOFD Director Greg Baitx and the entire MOFD Board demanding that Baitx recuse himself from the firefighter wage and benefit contract talks and vote because of a serious conflict of interest.

His conflict of interest is obvious (see www.orindaroadfacts.info/mofd-recusal-petition for a summary). Two other Directors also have a conflict (major underwriting of their campaigns by the employees' union - see www.orindaroadfacts.info/other), but if they all recused themselves, there would not be a quorum of the board to agree to a contract. If only Baitx recuses himself, then the independent directors (Jorgens and Jex) will be on an equal footing with the union-affiliated directors (Danziger and Donner) and the communities best interests can be served.

The real story, though, is how Orinda and Moraga have given up or lost control of 29 million tax dollars, annually dedicated to emergency services. How a small group of municipal employees, whose services we appreciate and require, can take over our independent "fire" department. This needs to be understood by the community.

The City of Orinda and Town of Moraga need to separately and jointly rectify this loss of control. They first need to understand (by creating standing committees/commissions) what services we are receiving from MOFD and what we are paying for them; and then they need to make sure we are getting the services we want and need and are paying for (but not receiving).

Individuals cannot do this alone. The cities need to act on our behalf to ensure our well-being. That's the whole purpose of representative democracy.

— Steve Cohn



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and offered to recruit some of her friends to do the same.

We in the office left that day smiling from ear to ear. She reminded us of the volunteer spirit that has always made Orinda special. Just as one door closes, another opens. It's heartening to see our kids carry that torch forward.

We're all stumbling towards normalcy, like a toddler who just learned to walk, each of us trying to find our way to reconnect with others. But, at least for me,

volunteering helps take the awkwardness out of meeting new people while providing me with the satisfaction of helping others.

So, if you are looking to get more involved, you can volunteer, even if it's just for an hour a month. Alternatively, if you prefer, you can donate. Either way, every little bit helps. So be like Lucy and contact us at 925.402.4506 or seniorsaroundtownorinda@gmail.com; I promise you won't regret it.

Kyle Arteaga can be reached at kyle@bulletgroup.com

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Letters to the Editor are printed on a space-available basis and should be no longer than 400 words. They must include the writer's first and last name, signature and telephone number.

Send letters to: Editor, *The Orinda News*, P.O. Box 97, Orinda, CA 94563, or email to editor@theorindanews.com. Letters to Editor for the August issue are due July 8.

For display advertising rates, call Jill Gelster at 925.528.9225 (jill@aspenconsult.net), Elana O'Loskey at 925.984.1751 (elanao@mac.com) or Kathy Enzerink at 252.626.2109 (kathy@theorindanews.com). The deadline for the August issue is July 8.

STUDENT

◆ PARADE from page 1

Dennis Fay voted for it.

Though she is against having the parade this year and would rather postpone it until the next, Mayor Worth says she will be at the parade with a mask on.

"I certainly want to support the community event, and I look forward to supporting this community," said Worth. "There are a lot of uncertainties. I looked forward to us having a Fourth of July parade, but we do not know what will happen as we start to open up."

Kosla said his reasoning in voting to go forward with the traditional event this year was solidified after going to graduation parties over the past few weeks where he saw people "being respectful and wearing masks."

Worth's counter was the schools have more control over how many people show up to graduation, which is a "once in a lifetime event." Schools were able to mandate how many people per student could attend the celebration while also requiring masks. The city, conversely, can only do what the state and county require as mandatory guidelines.

Which is exactly what The Orinda Association (OA) intended when it pitched the suggested celebration to city officials, according to OA Board Member Diane Lautz.

The OA, which has held the parade annually since 1985, typically begins planning the event early in the new year. Planning for this one was no different than usual according to Waterman.

"[We] met back in January and talked to volunteers and the OA Board with the understanding that we would only go forward within CDC and county guidelines," said Lautz. "We've been going forward with that in mind since. We were resigned to stop if the regulations said that we couldn't [have the event]."

Citizens are excited to get back into community events and to have a sense of normalcy.

"It would be good to have something," said resident Shannon Pedroni during the June 2 meeting. "I for one would feel comfortable and confident and think it would be a great event."

Postcards for the event explaining masks for unvaccinated individuals are recommended by the County Health Department and encouraging masks for everyone will be sent to all Orinda residents in late June.

Orinda's vaccination rate is higher than most cities in Contra Costa County with 83.6% of residents partially vaccinated and 74.7% fully vaccinated as of the June 2 meeting according to the Contra Costa Health Department.

Though most of the city is at least partially vaccinated, Worth says her main concern is that "there is no clear, no black and white," on how to get back to normal without mandatory guidelines. She called things like the parade still "in this gray area."

Concerns were raised by city officials about turnout to the parade since Piedmont, Concord, Clayton, Martinez and Danville have all canceled or postponed their own city celebrations. But Lautz and Waterman assured them that in years where the parade lands on a Sunday, turnout is lower and typically hovers in the 2,000 to 3,000 participant range.

Lautz argued that there are not enough parking spots available for nonresidents to join in the festivities, and with Bay Area Rapid Transit only serving 20% of its normal ridership, it would be difficult to get to Orinda without a car.

"We are being thoughtful about what we are doing," said Lautz. "We feel that people are ready to get back to normalcy."

Krys Shanin can be reached at krysshahin@gmail.com.

Accomplished Teen Charis Woo Interns for *The Orinda News*

By SALLY HOGARTY
Executive Editor

Well-rounded doesn't begin to describe Charis Woo, who began interning with *The Orinda News* in June. In addition to enjoying writing, history and English, the rising junior at Head-Royce also plays the harp, crews with Oakland Strokes, swims in San Francisco Bay raising money for various charities and has clocked over 200 hours at the Contra Costa Solano County Food bank since COVID-19 began.

"I fell in love with the harp when I was just five. My mother and I were walking by a store in Walnut Creek and I heard this beautiful music. I've been playing ever since. I love playing at my grandmother's retirement home and would like to do the same at other senior centers. Recently, though, the harp has taken a backseat to crew," said Woo.

"I fell in love with the harp when I was just five," said Charis Woo

The busy young woman, who was previously a member of the Orinda Country Club swim team, plans on doing her second open water swim for Swim Across America on Oct. 3. The 1.5-mile swim benefits UCSF Benioff Children's Hospitals' fight against cancer.

"It's very different swimming in open water. On my last swim, the waves and current forced me to stop a lot to be sure I was still on course," Woo said.

Journalism piqued Woo's interest when she added an Expository Writing class, which included writing and editing the



SALLY HOGARTY

High school junior **Charis Woo** is the new student intern for *The Orinda News*.

school paper, to her schedule at Head-Royce.

Woo has always lived in Orinda where she attended Sleepy Hollow Elementary School before transferring to Head-Royce as a sixth-grader.

In 2019, she won the Voice of Democracy essay contest sponsored by local Veterans of Foreign War (VFW) Post 8063. She went on to Sacramento for the state competition.

"I didn't win the state prize, but my younger brother, Christian, did this year in the middle school category," said Woo.

The energetic teen will do a variety of projects for *The Orinda News* to include filing, factchecking and writing a few stories.

Sally Hogarty can be reached at sally@theorindanews.com.

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300SL Coupe



1975 Porsche 911 Coupe



2005 Ford GT Coupe



Buzz Weldy with his 1965
Ford Mustang 2 Door Fastback

EVERYDAY ORINDA

◆ MOFD from page 1

a 2:2 compromise.”

Baitx, who represents District 1 in Moraga, was absent from the June 16 meeting when the May online petition calling for his recusal was presented by former Mayor Laura Abrams. With 1,150 signatures from Moraga and Orinda, it demanded he recuse himself from the labor negotiations.

“The communities you have been elected to serve no longer trust you as the community representative and have lost faith that you have the resident’s best interest at heart and believe that you place outside interests above Moraga-Orinda citizens,” said Abrams. “You cannot serve two masters. You cannot negotiate the best union contract for your constituents for paying the bill on one hand and negotiate against your union president and fire suppression brotherhood on the other hand. Walk away from the negotiation table and leave it to the remaining four directors to negotiate There is passion and determination from both communities to have this process be legitimate and without tarnish.”

The MOFD Board governing documents require “recusal for an ‘apparent’ conflict of interest in addition to an actual conflict of interest.” MOFD Board President Craig Jorgens said MOFD provides a “higher standard for conflicts of interest than California State law mandates.”

According to the State of California Department of Justice, Gov. Code, § 87100 et seq. “no public official at any level of state or local government shall make, participate in making or in any way attempt

to use his official position to influence a governmental decision in which he knows or has reason to know he has a financial interest.”

Government Code section § 1090 also states that “members of the Legislature, state, county, district, judicial district, and city officers or employees shall not be financially interested in any contract made by them in their official capacity, or by any body or board of which they are members.”

Board President Jorgens added that “This particular recusal decision is up to Director Baitx, but if I had his set of circumstances, I would recuse myself.”

A memo will be written by Director John Jex and submitted to the California Fair Political Practices Commission for review to seek an opinion, according to Jorgens.

Controversy has surrounded the board since Directors Steve Dazinger, Michael Donner and Baitx were elected in 2018 (www.theorindanews.com) with the backing of the firefighters union. “Our opinion about why we endorse certain candidates is to maintain a level of protection for this community,” said Vince Wells, president of Firefighters Local 1230, at the time. “We believe we stood up for the community by endorsing these candidates. I do not want to have this Board make decisions or have members of the community think that what the Board decides to do is based on the fact that we supported these candidates.”

Krys Shanin can be reached at krysshahin@gmail.com.

Everyday  rinda

ADULTING STILL INCLUDES STORYTIME

MIMI BOMMARITO



Food and fireworks aside, July Fourth conjures an array of visual images plucked straight from the illustrations in a history book: defeated Redcoats, quill pens and parchment, and wigged white men wearing knickers and stockings, a fashion trend that, thankfully, never repeated until *Hamilton* hit Broadway.

In reality, countless lesser events – rarely dissected in a classroom – led to the creation of this country. Sounds so obvious, but how easily we forget we didn’t drop from a stork, and our towns and cities and the means that connect them didn’t drop from ... well, bigger storks?

During my recent “roots research” trip to the rural Nebraska Sandhills, my joy overflowed as I Willa Cather-ed my way over the prairie acres my people have tended since they were part of the Homestead Act of 1862.

One evening, after my cousin and I sipped a little “liquid courage,” we knocked on the door of the magnificent home my Austrian great grandfather built and asked for a peek inside. I wish I had the space to fully describe the tour. Fever dreams have made more sense.

The talkative, eclectic owners, with at least 17 major DIY construction projects at various stages of completion throughout the house, were surprisingly eager to explain all of them. Meanwhile, their teenagers grumbled, and Mittens, their cat, nibbled from a pot of what appeared to be yesterday’s dinner coagulating on the stove. Fortunately, the one thing they hadn’t altered was the staircase my grandmother descended on Christmas Day, 1914, to marry my grandfather.

Few stories make it into history books, but that doesn’t mean they’re not important. History is sacred, especially the small moments. Our number of grandparents double with every generation. The cosmic Rube Goldberg machine explains how each of us eventually achieved a birth certificate containing many avenues worthy of exploration. Every story was “woven against a backdrop” of something.

Although I have no ancestors from Orinda, I still found our local Walking History Tour, presented by a member of the Orinda Historical Society, fascinating — a

third grade field trip I was happy to have chaperoned.

How many readers knew the boxy little structure with the funky roof that sits in front of East Bay Pediatrics at the intersection of Bates and Davis Road was once our train depot? Granted, the railroad only ran from Emeryville to Orinda, and then backed up to Emeryville, no joke, in reverse. The train chronically ran so behind schedule its motto was, “Better a late train than no train at all.” As a lifelong “Petticoat Junction” fan, this charming tidbit of local history suckered me right in.

And why is it called the DeLaveaga Depot when our town is called Orinda? Because E.I. DeLaveaga, an investor from San Francisco, purchased the land in foreclosure from William Walker Camron, the first developer.

Camron’s wife enjoyed the poetry of Katherine Philips, an English poet of the 17th century known as “The Matchless Orinda,” “Orinda” being the poet’s pseudonym. In her honor, Alice Camron named their estate “Orinda Park.” And now we know why OPP is called Orinda Park Pool.

Seriously. You never know when you’ll be asked a trivia question for big money. You can thank me later.

“But wait, there’s more.” You see, William Camron hit a rough patch, lost all his money and ditched his family. His wife had to relinquish her beloved Orinda Park, selling to DeLaveaga. Is it just me, or can’t you see this story making a great episode of Comedy Central’s “Drunk History?”

This Fourth of July, ask your older lovelies to share their stories. Excavate the smallest moments: what was their favorite sweet? How did they style their hair? Describe their first job. What made them laugh the hardest? Gently pry the story floodgates open. Learn their favorite novel, and then you read it too. Travel the pages with them. The elderly weren’t always frail and hard of hearing; tales of their coltish years just might surprise you. Left untold, their stories will be the only gold taken with them to the grave.

Mimi Bommarito can be reached at editor@theorindanews.com.



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I THINK I NEED BRAKES, RIGHT?



RAYMOND KUNZ

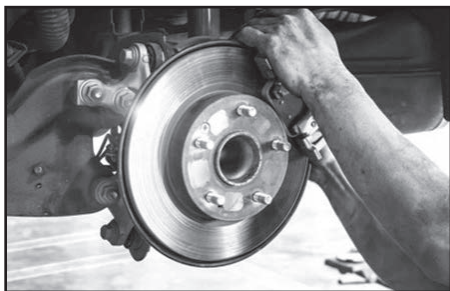
You're driving down the street and coming to a stop and hear a squeak or squeal. You know you need new brakes ... right? So, you go to Google and search for a "brake shop" in your area, call them and ask how much to replace your brakes.

At this point, the first question someone should ask is, "When can you get it in so that we can perform a brake inspection?" Literally speaking, this is the only answer personnel at the shop can give you until they do an inspection.

And here's why. Things like vehicle GVW (Gross Vehicle Weight), tire, rotor or drum size, 4-wheel disc, front disc and rear drum, floater rear differential, and even whether or not it is a European vehicle, all make a difference.

Unfortunately, most consumers can't answer all the questions that need to be asked in order to give an estimate over the phone!

Beware of shops who say they can give you an estimate over the phone without having access to all these details because that can be a bait and switch tactic used in this industry for years. Such shops get you in on



SHUTTERSTOCK

Most manufacturers recommend rotor replacement over machining.

a low initial quote or estimate, take the car apart for the inspection and then suddenly the price doubles or more! Are you really going to take it out of the shop after it is all apart? In most cases, the answer is "no."

So, what is a complete brake job?

Although there are exceptions, for the most part you want new brake pads as well as new rotors and brake sensors (if equipped). Some vehicles require cleaning and repacking the wheel bearings and replacing the bearing seals as well.

Steer clear of "machining" the rotors if possible. This removes material from the rotors to "true" them, making them thinner and generally causing pulsation from rotor warpage. Although machining the rotors has been an acceptable process in the past, more and more manufacturers recommend rotor replacement as opposed to machining for various reasons. This is also recommended by most brake specialists as well.

The bottom line: no one can give you a price for your brake job without looking at the car and performing a brake inspection first. Do you really want to rely on the cheapest price to stop your car? Quality work with brand name parts and a long warranty should be what you are looking for, regardless of the job.

For those of you who may think "auto-repair" is easy, remember my mantra: There is more computing power in most newer vehicles nowadays than there was in the Saturn rocket that sent man to the moon!

Raymond Kunz can be reached at service@orindamotors.com.



POLICE BLOTTER

May 1 through June 14

Calls for Service

- Accident Injury: 1 incident: Camino Pablo
- Armed Robbery: 1 incident: El Nido Ranch Cir.
- Burglary, Auto: 2 incidents: Orinda Way, Moraga Way
- Burglary, Commercial: 3 incidents: Camino Pablo, Irwin Way, Theatre Square
- Court Order Violation: 1 incident
- Death Non-Criminal: 3 incidents
- DUI Misdemeanor: 1 incident
- Evading Police, Wrong Way Driver: 1 incident
- Extortion: 1 incident
- Failure to Obey Officer: 1 incident
- Found Property: 2 incidents
- Forgery: 1 incident
- Fraud: 1 incident
- Grand Theft Vehicle Parts: 3 incidents: Camino Del Diablo, Irwin Way, Hillcrest Dr.
- Hit & Run Misdemeanor: 1 incident:

- St. Stephens Vista
- Identity Theft: 1 incident
- Outside Assist: 3 incidents
- Petty Theft: 2 incidents
- Petty Theft from Vehicle: 3 incidents: Acacia Dr., Muth Dr., Bates Blvd.
- Possession of Firearm, Felony: 1 incident
- Shoplift: 3 incidents: Orinda Way, Camino Pablo (2)
- Tow: 2 incidents
- Vandalism: 3 incidents
- Vehicle Theft: 4 incidents: Van Tassel Ln., La Cuesta Rd., Brookwood Rd., Arbolado Ct.
- Weapons Violation: 1 incident

Arrest

- Recovered Vehicle: 1 recovery
- Warrant Arrest: 2 arrests

- Compiled by David Dierks
Assistant Editor

◆ AB 988 from page 2

bill does stipulate mobile crisis teams and law enforcement would work in tandem to deescalate the situation.

Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan partnered with the Steinberg Institute, The Kennedy Forum, Contra Costa County, NAMI of Contra Costa County, and the Miles Hall Foundation in introducing the bill.

Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg, The Steinberg Institute's founder, said "Law enforcement should not be expected to be experts in mental health.

This legislation is a critical piece of a broader effort to decriminalize mental illness."

AB 988 is currently in policy committees before moving to the senate fiscal committee. If cleared, it would go to the senate floor for a vote and back to the assembly for a concurrence vote on any amendments made in the senate. The bill has until Sept. 10 to be cleared by the legislature with final action from the Governor no later than Oct. 10.

Ken Hogarty can be reached at kenhogarty@gmail.com.



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PERFORMING ARTS



DAVID DIERKS

The stage at the Orinda Community Center Amphitheater is home to the Orinda Starlight Village Players during the summer months. This year the players are not building a theater and are performing reader's theater productions on the bare stage.

OrSVP Presents Stories by Starlight

By DAVID DIERKS
Assistant Editor

The Orinda Starlight Village Players (OrSVP) return this summer to the Orinda Community Center Park Amphitheater with eight weekends of entertainment starting Aug. 6 and running through Oct. 3 (dark on Labor Day weekend). Due to COVID-19 restrictions and uncertainty, OrSVP is producing eight individual shows, one each weekend, and each performed as reader's theater.

Normally by this date OrSVP would have a full stage built and a first production finished. The pandemic intervened. OrSVP rents the Orinda Community Center Park Amphitheater from the city. The creation of the theater usually takes five weeks of construction starting in April. State and county restrictions prevented this.

OrSVP's Board of Directors decided they could not ask their all-volunteer staff to spend five weeks building the theater with the threat of productions being cancelled at the last minute and the need to dismantle everything done with no productions. In response, OrSVP reworked this year's productions.

Enter reader's theater.

Reader's theater is a minimalist style of performance where no sets are used and scripts are openly used by the cast. This means that rehearsals are minimized and can be performed with social distancing and reduced social contact.

"The plays are cast with actors for all the parts, are directed by our wonderful directors and are performed accordingly,"

said Administrative Director Jill Gelster. "Actors, however, are holding a script and performing standing in place on the stage rather than interacting. This way we can maintain social distancing."

Shows offered include:

- *Tartuffe* by Moliere, adapted by Patrick Cleary
- *Two Left Feet* by P.G. Wodehouse with *The Town in the Library, the Library in the Town* by Edith Nesbit
- *A Triple Tryst of Terror* (including Edgar Allan Poe's *The Black Cat*, W.W. Jacobs' *The Monkey's Paw* and Saki's *The Open Window*)
- *Don Quixote*, adapted by Matthew Garlin
- *Seven Keys to Baldpate Inn* by George M. Cohan
- *A Familiar Visage* by Eddie Peabody
- *Carmilla* by Sheridan Le Fanu
- *Bill Chesman's Mini 10 Minute Play Festival*

Auditions for the shows are by appointment only starting July 10. Each production contains a variety of parts (m/f/non-binary, old and young).

"The auditions will be held at the Orinda Community Center Park. We will audition five people per 30-minute time slot," said Gelster.

In addition to the acting parts, OrSVP is searching for stage, light and sound technicians and is willing to train.

For more information, contact info@orsvp.org.

David Dierks can be reached at david.dierks@theorindanews.com.

Cal Shakes *The Winter's Tale* Sept. Plus Music and Opera in July

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

Artistic Director Eric Ting, Resident Dramaturg Philippa Kelly and everyone at Cal Shakes is busy preparing for their full production of *The Winter's Tale*. Ting and Kelly have created a new adaptation of Shakespeare's play, which will run Sept. 1-26 at the renowned Bruns Amphitheater. The cast and creative team will be announced soon.

Only one play is scheduled because of the changing landscape in relation to the pandemic and the movement for racial equality, so important as all theater companies reemerge.

Ting, the tale's director, said, "... we're thrilled to welcome audiences back with Shakespeare's extraordinary passion play. Part tragedy, part comedy, it's the very capsule of this moment."

First performed in 1611, this adaptation is a winter's tale that winds an extraordinary path from rage to redemption and resurrection to reconciliation, all wrapped up in a love letter to lovers of live theater. Visit www.calshakes.org/winters-tale/ for details.

Cal Shakes, in the interim, is sharing its outdoor Orinda stage as a safe performance venue with as much of the creative community as possible. COVID-19 made their outdoor performance space as precious as gold, and that gold is being mined. For more about the Season of Shared Light, visit www.calshakes.org.

Paper Moon Presents was literally born to work with Cal Shakes sharing the Bruns

stage. On July 2, Paper Moon Presents legendary blues musician Taj Mahal. Singer Gaby Moreno opens the night, part of the Measure for Measure Concert Series. Doors open at 5 p.m.; the show starts at 7 p.m.

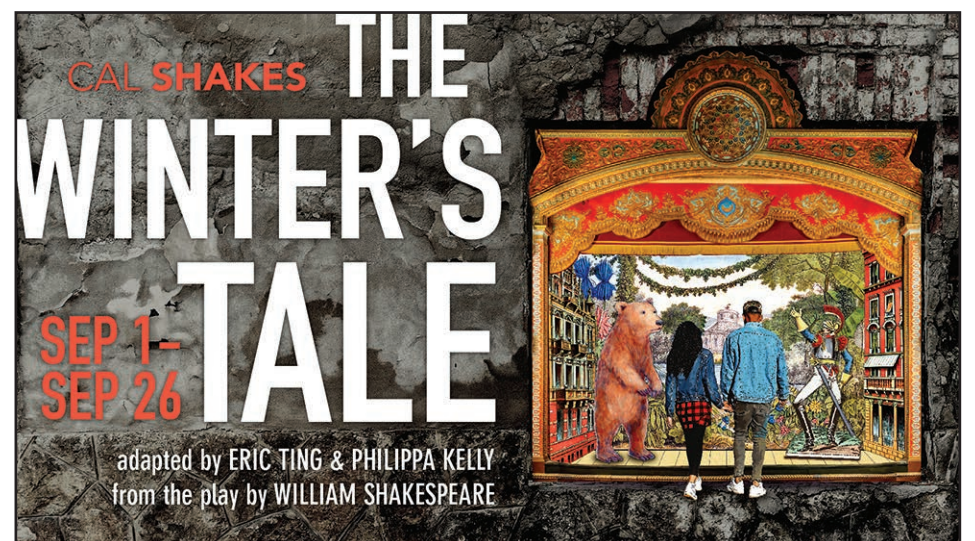
On July 3, Rebirth Brass Band, a New Orleans institution, performs with powerhouse vocalist Destani Wolf. Doors open at 5, show at 6 p.m. Tickets are limited, and all Paper Moon shows require proof of vaccination and masks. Get tickets and all public safety information at www.papermoonpresents.com.

From July 24 to Aug. 8, the West Edge Festival, West Edge Opera, will run three weekends and three operas at the Bruns. One opera is from early music, one from the 20th century and one contemporary. Catch *Eliogabalo* by Francesco Cavalli; *Katya Kabanova* by Czech composer Leoš Janáček; and *Elizabeth Cree* by Kevin Puts and Mark Campbell. Visit www.westedgeopera.org/festival-2021 for information and tickets.

As part of "Cal Shakes Online" in collaboration with Remote Studios, July 24 and July 31, from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., will mark the first two Bay Area digitally remote, live public readings of renowned playwright Herbert Siguenza's award-winning play, *El Henry*.

Siguenza, a co-founder of the performance group Culture Clash, will present this Chicano adaptation of Shakespeare's *Henry IV Part One*. The online product will feature Actors Reading Collective members Wilma Bonet, Catherine Castellanos, Jomar

[SEE CAL SHAKES page 19]



COURTESY OF CAL SHAKES

Tickets are on sale now for Cal Shakes *The Winter's Tale* in a sparkling new adaptation by Artistic Director Eric Ting and Resident Dramaturge Philippa Kelly. They describe the play as, "A story split between tragedy and comedy, loss and healing, it's the hope we need." Performances are scheduled Sept. 1 - 26.



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FILM



THE REEL LESS TRAVELED

OLD MOVIES – AGE IS JUST A NUMBER



TOM WESTLAKE

I was out and about the other day and chanced to overhear a conversation. The talk was about movies, which immediately piqued my interest. Okay, I'll be honest. I was eavesdropping.

The exchange was about the four-hour *Justice League* movie – the Zack Snyder cut. I was very interested since, at that time, I had not yet seen it. Anyway, talking about how cool it was, one of the participants compared it with all the Marvel movies, noting it reminded him of the old *Blade Runner*.

I must have done something noticeable because they turned to stare at me with disdain in their eyes. They gave me the once over, and after determining that I posed no threat, continued with their conversation.

In the interest of full disclosure, I recall I made a noise somewhere between a gasp, a moan and what could only be described as a sound of outright disapproval. *Blade Runner* an old movie? I beg your pardon. How dare you. It came out in 1982 and I saw it when it was first released – in a theater and everything.

Fully aware that “age is just a number” and that “you’re only as old as you feel,” it’s still annoying to hear things like this, mainly because many might dismiss a particular film based on nothing more than how long ago it was made and released.

Old movies to me are not only films

made before I was born, but ones already then considered ancient. By some standards, some might call me old (how old is something you can figure for yourself with a hint hidden toward the end of this column), but my life expectancy and the length of the overall history of cinema differ significantly.

To be generous, the art of cinema as we know it is only about 125 years old, give or take, and by that measure to call *Blade Runner* “old” is inappropriate. Real old movies would probably be *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligary* (1920) or *Metropolis* (1927). I suppose you could lump any silent movie into that category, but early sound films could also be included as well. *The Wizard of Oz* or *Gone with the Wind* (both 1939) would also fall into the category of old.

I would probably draw the line somewhere around 1950 or so. It was around that time when the social fabric was on the verge of a major shift, so I suppose how well a movie has aged, meaning how antiquated the acting and overall attitude of the film meshes with current thought processes, should also be kept in mind.

I think our ideas of what constitutes “old” should be re-evaluated, especially in regards to film. True art is timeless, and one only need look at any top ten list of classic films to see what I mean. Besides,

[SEE REEL page 10]



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SALLY HOGARTY

The Orinda Theatre's **Derek Zemrak** said the art deco movie house is open for business with a variety of films and live shows currently scheduled. Choose from documentaries, comedy and drama as Orinda gets back to a more normal lifestyle. A monthly live comedy show is also in the offering. “I’m so excited to get back to having comedians here,” said Zemrak. “And, we know our audience. Our comedians are funny without relying on a host of four-letter words.”

The long-time film critic, producer and actor has also recently published a book entitled *50 Movies You May Not Have Seen, That You Should!* The book includes a plethora of films including one of Leonardo DiCaprio’s early films *What’s Eating Gilbert Grape*, which also starred Johnny Depp. Great photos and commentary make this a fun read. The book is available at The Orinda Theatre.



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OBITUARY

Educator, Playwright, Writer and Performer: A Life Full of Creativity and Positive Energy

By SALLY HOGARTY
Executive Editor

The Orinda News lost a talented reporter, and the local theater community one of its brightest stars when playwright, educator and performer Kathy McCarty passed away June 2 at the age of 58. Kathy, who also taught at Orinda Academy, loved covering local performing arts, especially Lamorinda Idol.

While I had reviewed Kathy's shows for years, I didn't really get to know her until 2000 when I played Nana in Caroline Altman's *Whiskers*, a musical adaptation of *The Velveteen Rabbit*. Kathy, who produced the musical, played the Horse, a wise, loving character, not unlike Kathy herself. Every holiday season I looked forward to being in that production, especially when my 5-year-old granddaughter joined the cast as Raggedy Ann. Thanks to Kathy, my very shy granddaughter built an inner confidence that has served her well these past 16 years.

Galatean Players, Kathy's theater company, produced over 20 of her original works throughout the Bay Area, including her full-length musical *Rivets*. This homage to the Homefront Soldiers of WW2 performed on the SS Victory Red Oak at the Rosie the Riveter National Park in Richmond.

The busy thespian often toured her productions to other states, and I was fortunate to be in the cast of *The Ladies Quintet* when it played Off-Broadway in New York.

But the best part Kathy gave me was minister at her wedding six years ago to Rich Schwab, whose family still resides in Orinda. I've never felt so proud as I stood next to Rich and watched our Kathy walk down that aisle!

Raised primarily in Benton, Illinois, Kathy packed a great deal of living and creativity into her 58 years. In addition to her writing and performing, she produced a stand-up comedy show and taught theater classes at College Park High School in



Kathy McCarty dedicated her life and considerable energy to the creative arts as a playwright, actor, director, journalist and educator.

Pleasant Hill and, most recently, at Contra Costa College and Orinda Academy until the effects of Multiple Sclerosis (MS) forced her to quit a few years ago.

Tackling MS with the positive energy she used in all aspects of her life, Kathy completely changed her diet and lifestyle to combat the effects of the disease. Unfortunately, just over a year ago, she was diagnosed with a rare form of brain cancer, Primary Central Nervous System Lymphoma, that has a very low survival rate.

Kathy is pre-deceased by her father, Air Force veteran Joe McCarty, and mother Peggy Donaldson McCarty. She is survived by her husband Rich Schwab and her brother Mike McCarty. A celebration of Kathy's life is planned for later in the summer.

Donations can be made in her name to the Campbell Theatre, where many of her shows were produced, by going to www.campbelltheater.com or to the Animal Rescue Foundation at www.arlife.org/donate.

Sally Hogarty can be reached at sally@theorindanews.com.

◆ SCHOOLS from page 2

now approved textbook, *myWorld Interactive* K-5, was the best text from the pool.

After the selection committee chose *myWorld Interactive*, the materials were piloted in classrooms across the district during the 2020-2021 school year. But at last month's meeting, a handful of parents said that they were dissatisfied with what their children were being taught, noting that some historical events were described incorrectly and/or insensitively.

One parent said her child was penalized on a quiz for describing forced labor as "conflict" instead of "cooperation," and another person, a teacher, said that she counted over 500 errors in the textbook, something Schrag dismissed. Others said more general things about the text being too white-focused at the expense of other narratives.

Addressing concerns, the Board agreed that the district would work on creating a set of supplemental materials for its social studies curriculum, something that Schrag said is very common and important when teaching history.

"It's upsetting. It's disturbing. I wish it were different," said the Board's Vice President, Carol Brown. "And meanwhile, again, I just think it is critically important that we offer uniform supplementation to this curriculum."

Explaining what this might look like in an interview, Liz Daoust, the Board's president, said the District would try to increase the amount of professional development offered to its teachers in social studies.

◆ REEL from page 9

Metropolis, alluded to above, is a lot closer to *Blade Runner* than *Justice League*. So there.

Next thing you know someone will be calling The Beatles "old," and that is something I will simply not tolerate. You have been warned.

Speaking of societal shifts, The International Film Showcase at the Orinda Theatre is still up and running and going strong. This month's film, *The Silent Revolution*, hails from Germany, and as the title suggests, it deals with very important chapter in Hungarian history, namely the Hungarian Uprising, which took place in the very significant year of 1956.

It is not so much the uprising itself at this film's center, but more the reaction to it by a group of 12th grade students. Despite the restrictions placed upon news of the uprising in the German Democratic Republic at the time, word gets out. So horrified are these students at this horrendous injustice, they do the only thing they can do given their circumstances. They hold a two-minute moment of silence.

Daoust also mentioned possibly forming a committee comprised of teachers, parents and administrators to focus on creating additional history materials to be used at all OUSD schools.

When asked if it was feasible for OUSD to write its own texts instead of using the ones recommended by the state, Daoust said that, while possible, it would be time-consuming and difficult. She said that energy would be better spent focusing on training teachers and designing lesson plans that correct the issues inherent in using the state textbook.

In addition, Schrag said in an email that if the District wrote its own text, it would lose out on useful tools included in the state textbook, like digital activities, materials adjusted for students at different reading levels and workbooks. "It is much more than a single textbook for all students," he said.

As for alternative texts, Schrag said at the meeting that it would be a number of years before the state updates its history options. According to the California Department of Education's website, new instructional materials for social studies will be adopted November 2028.

Saying that OUSD is "beholden" to California's content standards at June's conference, Daoust suggested that community members share concerns with state officials. "There is advocacy that can be done at the state level with the Department of Education," she said.

Tristan Shaughnessy can be reached at tristan.c.shaughnessy@gmail.com.

This in turn sparks a revolution of another kind, this time coming from the authority figures who wish to hold the party line and make sure it stays held. What follows is a series of events all too familiar in totalitarian countries: persecution, exclusion, accusations, and the unfortunate and sometimes deadly collateral damage that comes with them.

It is particularly prescient that this film will be shown during a month when we, as Americans, celebrate our identity as a country. It holds a lesson that we should all take to heart. It will have a three-day run at the Orinda Theatre from July 16-18 at 1, 4 and 7 p.m. For further information and reservations, please go to internationalshowcase.org or orindamovies.com.

So now, I go back into hibernation for another month, curling up with my own vast collection of movies, both old and new, and I'll leave you with my usual plea to always go towards those wonderful flickering images made of light and sound. For that's where the reel magic lies.

Tom Westlake can be reached at popinjay@earthlink.net.

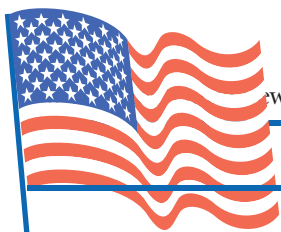
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Grab Your Chair, Hat and Mask: July 4 Promises Safety, Fun for All

By KATHY BOHANAN ENZERINK
Assistant Editor

Look left. Look Right. Everywhere you look, Orinda Village has the aura and feel of normalcy as it prepares for the annual July 4 *Best Hometown Parade*, which kicks off Sunday morning with the traditional flag-raising ceremony at 9 a.m. The parade starts in the Theatre District at 11 a.m., culminating on the Village side around noon.

Parade viewers may line the mile-long route, maintaining safe distances from other patrons, or watch live stream online at orindaparade.com/live, which starts at 10:30 a.m. "The committee highly recommends those not vaccinated wear a mask and suggest all others do so as well to protect the unvaccinated," said Diane Lautz, an Orinda Association (OA) board member and co-chair of the parade. "Patriotic masks will be available during the day's events."

Some things old, some things different, some things new. All in red, white and blue!

Long-time favorite bands, including The Orinda All-Volunteer Marching Band, two New Orleans-style brass bands and the popular bagpipes will march along the parade route, joined by other musical entries.

What's new? A giant log hauled on a lowbed trailer and a reconfigured, former fire truck with a whole new purpose.

Returning are the bright and shiny classic cars which will wend their way through the village along with ladies on very tall stilts. There'll be sirens blaring and lights flashing for sure, along with floats, former military members from VFW #8063 and dignitaries who serve the community.

It will be hard to miss Library Branch Manager, Michael Beller. Just look for the man in the stars and stripes walking alongside library staff and volunteers with



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Michael Beller, who is walking in the parade with Orinda Library staff and volunteers with Friends of the Library, is patriotic from head to toe in his 'just for this parade' attire.

the decorated book cart! He said, "Marching in the parade is a great opportunity for us to remind everyone the library is open and to celebrate Independence Day with our community."

Need an early morning workout? Participate in the annual two-mile Run/Walk for a Reason in person between 9 and 10:30 a.m. or virtually. Visit <https://sudc.org/wesley> for details.

Love music? Head to the Community Center, near the Friends of the Library book sale, to enjoy the sounds of the Lewiston Jazz Band beginning at 10 a.m. Want more music? The Three Day Weekend band performs following the parade in the Orinda Park gazebo, a perfect place for an old-fashioned picnic with family and friends – don't forget the blanket as you spread out!

[SEE PARADE page 12]



PHOTO BY TOM LAVIN

This member of **The Orinda Preschool (TOPS)** traveled in style in the 2019 parade.

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ORINDA 4TH OF JULY EVENTS

Best Hometown Parade

- 9 a.m. **Flag-raising Ceremony**
VFW Post #8063 raises the colors of our flag in front of the Orinda Community Center, 28 Orinda Way
- 9 a.m. **Fun Run For A Reason**
Fun Run for a Reason: 2-mile walk/run any time between 9 & 10:30 a.m. More info at <https://sudc.org/wesley/>
- 10 a.m. **Friends of the Orinda Library Book Sale**
in the Library Breezeway, 26 Orinda Way, Plaza Level
- 10:30 a.m. **Streaming link to parade begins**
Watch the parade from your home at www.orindaparade.com/live.
- 11:00 a.m. **Parade Begins on Theatre Side**
- 12:15 p.m. **Park Band plays in Gazebo**
Bring your own picnic or order ahead from local restaurants

Did you know:

The parade stretches for 1 mile from the Theatre Side to the Village Side. There are lots of places along the route for people to view the parade without crowding.



Things to Remember:

- Follow CDC, State & County Guidelines.
- Masks recommended for anyone not vaccinated.** We support everyone wearing a mask at this first large community event.
- Visit www.orindaparade.com for event details.



For more information, please visit www.OrindaParade.com or call (925) 254-0800

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FOURTH OF JULY

◆ PARADE from page 11

The parade is organized by The Orinda Association (OA), celebrating its 75th year. Organizers considered a multitude of patriotic-themed scenarios as COVID restrictions continually changed. "Our community is ready for some normalcy and organizers will provide as much back-to-normal fun as allowed by all federal, state and county COVID guidelines," said Lautz.

To participate, volunteer or donate to support the 2021 *Best Hometown Parade* via gofundme, visit orindaparade.com.

Kathy Enzerink can be reached at kathy@theorindanews.com.

★ Know Before You Go ★

- ★ Street parking will not be available along the parade route on Moraga Way or on Orinda Way. All other street parking is available, as well as Orinda BART's west parking lot. For handicapped parking, drivers may drop passengers off in front of the Community Center on Orinda Way until 10 a.m.
- ★ Street closures planned from 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. include: the Westbound Highway 24 on-ramp (East side of Camino Pablo); Moraga Way from Wells Fargo Bank to the Davis Road intersection; a portion of Santa Maria and all of Orinda Way. [Highway 24 access for both on and off ramps will remain available at St. Stephens Drive]
- ★ Volunteers will serve as Parade Route Monitors, helping keep the parade moving and ensuring safety.
- ★ Porta potties, provided by Republic Services, will be on the North side of town in the Community Center parking lot and the East BART parking lot.
- ★ Need more info? Visit orindaparade.com or www.orindaassociation.org.



PHOTO BY TOM LAVIN
All decked out in red, white and blue for the 2019 parade.



Lots of cars, classic, military and more will follow the parade route

SALLY HOGARTY



The Peter Pan Foundation will once again march in the parade.

TOM LAVIN

2021 July 4 Celebration Volunteer Team

Planning and preparing for our wonderful parade begin many months in advance. Without the tireless work of our dedicated volunteers, this popular event would not have been possible this year, especially given the uncertainty of COVID restrictions. A very big thank you goes out to the following who made this year's parade possible:

- Announcers:** Scott Butler, Bill Cosden, Steve Harwood
- Co-Chairs:** Diane Lautz, Bill Waterman
- Decorations Captain:** Marianne Moser
- Flag Raising Captain:** Terry Murphy and VFW Post 8063
- Fundraising/Sponsors:** Jill Gelster, Bill Waterman
- Marketing/Publicity Captains:** Sally Hogarty, Barbara Brawner
- Music/Bands Captains:** Jacalyn Buettner, Cindy Powell
- Parade Operations Captains:** Andy Radlow, April Meagher
- Pole Banners Captain:** Chris Laszcz-Davis
- Run for a Reason Captain:** Meghan Frey
- Social Media Captain:** Roxanne Christophe, Marianne Moser
- Sound Systems Captain:** Steve Harwood
- Volunteers Captains:** Latika Malkani, Marianne Moser
- Website:** David Dierks



Lewiston Jazz Band will play in front of the Community Center prior to the parade.

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SALLY HOGARTY

Enthusiastic members of the **Orinda All Volunteer Marching Band** provide patriotic tunes throughout the parade.



SALLY HOGARTY

Scott Butler (L) and Steve Harwood will emcee the parade on the Village Side.



SALLY HOGARTY

Liberty is back as COVID-19 restrictions are reduced and the parade goes on!



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We wish to thank all of the medical personnel who have provided medical care throughout this Covid-19 crisis, especially those who tested the residents of the Orinda Senior Village and Monteverde

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Have a safe and healthy July 4th!

STUDENTS

AAUW-OML 36 Awards Scholarships to Local, Deserving Students

By MARY ANN MCLEOD
Contributing Writer

American Association of University Women-Orinda, Moraga, Lafayette (AAUW-OML) recently held a Celebration of Excellence event, highlighting STEM programs and college scholarships and awarding a total of 36 scholarships to middle school girls, graduating high school seniors and Saint Mary's College students.

Cara Wolfe was the featured speaker. A graduating senior at UC Berkeley, she is studying computer science and Asian American studies. Wolfe participated in all OML branch STEM programs, and when she graduated from Acalanes High School in 2017, she received a college scholarship from the branch for her community service. While sharing her experiences participating in the branch's Tech Trek and STEM Conferences, Wolfe highlighted the importance of young women working equitably and comfortably in the STEM field.

The selection criteria for the high school and college scholarships is academic excellence, community service and leadership. All recipients are excellent students and have demonstrated a desire to help others for the good of their communities. Six local graduating high school seniors and three Saint Mary's College students received community service scholarships, including Chaya Tong from Miramonte.

Tong participated in leadership programs such as the Lafayette Youth Commission and Miramonte's Mock Trial and Peer Tutor programs. She organized the new South Asian Culture Club and *Writer's Mag*. She represented Miramonte on the Acalanes Governing School board, where she was proud to encourage the board to vote to change the district's transfer process and reopen its boarders. Tong will attend Emory University as an English major.

Additionally, three Saint Mary's College students from the High Potential Program received community engagement scholarships and nine others received scholarships to AAUW's National Conference for College Women Student Leaders. This virtual conference offers two days of leadership training, inspiration and networking, empowering students to gain the skills and confidence to pursue their goals.

A total of 18 Lamorinda eighth grade girls will attend virtual Tech Trek camp this summer. In normal times, Tech Trek is a week-long STEM immersion program held at Stanford Camp Curry, but last year's



Miramonte's **Chaya Tong** (L) recently received a scholarship from AAUW-OML based on her academic achievements and community service. Among the 36 scholarship winners are also **Aine Flynn** (center) and **Cassie Hopkin**.



COURTESY OF AAUW-OML

camp was canceled because of COVID-19.

This year, although the girls will not be on campus, they will have a unique opportunity to participate in hands-on activities in the morning and afternoon STEM workshops, hear from inspirational women working in STEM and interact with each

other in breakout rooms. They will learn the video software Flipgrid and will share their creations on Friday. There will be optional evening sessions as well. The opportunity to participate in this year's program was offered to last year's awardees, and they accepted. Orinda Intermediate School girls

(2020/2021) attending virtual Tech Trek camp this summer include Deya Murthy, Emma Wong, Sophia Bitton, Claire Casado, Christophe Davis and Kodie Zundel.

Mary Ann McCloud can be reached at editor@theorindanews.com.

Congratulations to Miramonte Scholarship Winners

By ARIELE TAYLOR
Contributing Writer

Each year Miramonte students have the opportunity to apply for multiple, local scholarships. The offering organizations or Miramonte Scholarship Committee determine recipients. The selection process is always difficult because of the numerous outstanding applicants. This year was no different. The following deserve congratulations:

Orinda Rotary Scholarship - Awarded to a student with strong academics, extra-curricular and community service: **Aine Flynn** and **Cassie Hopkin**.

Orinda Rotary STEM Scholarship - Awarded to an MHS student who demonstrates exceptional interest and ability in chemistry, biology, physics, technology and/or math: **Drugan Brady**.

McCarthy Scholarship - Awarded to a student who demonstrates transformative leadership in life: **Grace Barmmer**.

AAUW Scholarship - For women student leaders: **Chaya Tong**.

Harriet Scholarship - Awarded to students who have shown strong resilience or perseverance: **Josh Morganstein** and **Leilah Hodges**.

Orinda Woman's Club Scholarship - Awarded to a high school female who has exhibited outstanding leadership: **Chloe Lai** and **Madeline Giron**.

Joseph Daugherty Scholarship - In honor of Joseph Daugherty, who was actively involved in athletics, leadership and clubs: **Audrey Allen**.

Kiwanis Scholarship - For distinguished community service and leadership: **Chaya Tong**.

Ernie Voigt Memorial Scholarship - For an athlete of any Miramonte sport who exhibits talent, positivity and leadership: **Mina Jenab** (lacrosse).

Will Newton Award - For a Miramonte baseball and/or softball player who exhibits talent, positivity and leadership: **Wade Beury** (baseball) and **Ellie Sinha** (softball).

Moraga Rotary Al Simonsen Scholarship - In memory of Al Simonsen and awarded to athletes who have demonstrated outstanding leadership and community service: **Matthew Lyons** and **Madeline Giron**.



KIM ANDERSON

Orinda Rotary STEM Scholarship was awarded to **Drugan Brady**, a Miramonte High School student who demonstrated exceptional interest and ability in one of the following categories: chemistry, biology, physics, technology or math.

Arielle Taylor can be reached at editor@theorindanews.com.

What's On Deck With Parks & Rec!

Now Accepting Summer Camp Registration for all remaining sessions: Session III (July 6 - 16), Session IV (July 19 - 30) and Session V (Aug. 2 - 6).


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STUDENTS

Local Talented Student Writers Win Poul Anderson Awards

By SALLY HOGARTY
Executive Editor

COVID-19 may have kept most high school students in distance learning, but it didn't stop 41 talented local writers from entering this year's Poul Anderson Writing Contest. Sponsored by the Friends of the Orinda Library, the contest is open to all high school students in Orinda. The entrants once again showed the depth of talent in our local area. While this year's contestants were primarily from Mira-

monte, four entrants from Orinda Academy also competed.

The judges, which included Glori-etta Librarian and author Anne Lowell, Campolindo Librarian Sarah Morgan, Director of the Intuitive Writing Project Elizabeth Perlman and myself, had tough choices to make deciding upon category winners and honorable mentions. Judges were allowed to award more than one winner in a category, or no winner if appropriate.

"When we are judging, the names of the

writers are omitted so that we can read and judge without being aware of the identity of the writers," said Morgan.

Malayna Chang took first place honors in the Essay/Memoir/Biography category with her heartfelt story about dealing with the loss of her mother entitled "In Memory Of."

Although Chang lost her mother to cancer at a young age, she recalls many fond memories and happy times in her award-winning memoir; "When I was a young child, I remember driving up to Lake Tahoe with her and my dad, screaming to music from *Les Misérables* and *Glee*, and learning the lyrics to Journey's 'Don't Stop Believing' at age six." The Miramonte rising senior also won honorable mention for her short story "Eighteen Months."



COURTESY OF CHAYA TONG

Recent Miramonte graduate **Chaya Tong** was one of the winners in the essay/memoir/biography category for her memoir "The Memory Keeper."

Miramonte, won in the poetry division for her coming-of-age poem, "Sand." Ending on a high note, she writes: "I was molded and melted and formed till the ground was my cloud, till I landed and bloomed, till I asked, 'is this what it feels like to be Strong.'"

Miramonte rising sophomore Jarret Zunder placed first in the short story category with his homage to his grandmother in "Per Aspera Ad Astra," a Latin phrase meaning "through hardships to the stars." In his letter to her he said, "I am writing this because through your life's limitations you taught me never to live within the borders of stereotype, society, and self-doubt." He recalls how his grandmother told about her many adventures in China during difficult times,

[SEE ANDERSON page 18]



COURTESY OF MALAYNA CHAN

Malayna Chang's memoir "In Memory of" was one of the winners in the essay/memoir/biography category.

Shared first place honors with Chang was Chaya Tong, who graduated from Miramonte this year. Tong's work, "The Memory Keeper," is a charming account of being the "ultimate daycare kid." Tong recounts her time in school as "one of the only brown kids," but she contrasts that with how she blended in at daycare where, as the oldest, she often helped with the younger ones. She writes, "Daycare is infused in me. I can clean a room in five minutes and whip up lunch for seven... After taming countless temper tantrums, I can work with anyone."

Wendy Mapaye, also a rising senior at



COURTESY OF JARRET ZUNDER

Rising sophomore **Jarret Zunder** took first place in the short story category for his homage to his grandmother in "Per Aspera Ad Astra."

National Charity League Holds Senior Recognition for Grads



COURTESY OF MARCI BYRNE

The Lamorinda Chapter of the National Charity League (NCL) held its Senior Recognition May 9 at the Balestrieri Family Farm. The NCL is a mother-daughter philanthropic organization committed to community service, leadership development and cultural experiences. Twenty-two seniors from the graduating Class of 2021 were honored for their dedication to philanthropic service and cultural enrichment. Over the past six years, these seniors have volunteered over 4,500 hours of community service to organizations in need of assistance. Back Row (L-R): **Grace Barmmer, Helena Bardsley, Mia Castillo, Gracie McCauley, Claire Rowell, Lindsey Bliss, Maddie Tooker, Emma MacKenzie.** Middle Row (L-R): **Maggie Buckley, Molly Mitchell, Kate Dendinger, Tallulah Clancy, Audrey Allen, Caroline Sween, Reilly Yuen, Keira Taylor.** Front Row (L-R): **Spencer Deutz, Lindsay Davis.** Missing from photo: Evy LaVelle, Kiki O'Toole, Devon Byrne, Olivia Anderson.

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CLASSIFIEDS / CLUB MEETINGS

Club Meetings in July

With the lifting of state-level restrictions some clubs are meeting in person while others still offer Zoom meetings. Use contact info for more information.

American Association of University Women - Orinda Moraga Lafayette Branch (AAU2W-OML). For information, visit oml-ca.aauw.net.

Community Gentle Yoga, via Zoom, Mondays and Thursdays 9-10 a.m. Contact Gaby Mozee at gcmzee@gmail.com.

Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe. Third Monday, 7:30 p.m. Contact Kent Long for Zoom link at kentlong@moragaadobe.org. For more info.,

www.moragaadobe.org.
Friends of the Orinda Creeks. Fourth Wednesday, 5 p.m. 925.408.1840. www.orindacreeks.org. info@orindacreeks.org.

Lamorinda Alcohol Policy Coalition. Third Wednesday, 10 a.m. 925.687.8844, ext. 227. https://bit.ly/3egD3EZ.

Lamorinda Meditation Community. Mondays and Thursdays, 10:30 - 11:25 a.m., through Zoom. All levels and philosophies welcome. Contact Gaby for more details: gcmzee@gmail.com.

Lamorinda Republican Women Federated. Third Thursday. For more information, go to: www.lamorindarepublicanwomenfederated.org.
Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary. All week-

ly meetings currently conducted via Zoom video conferencing. 7 - 8:15 a.m. https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82609498205. Regular meetings will resume at the Lafayette Park Hotel when conditions permit. www.lamorinda-sunrise.com or lamorindasunrise@gmail.com. Meetings: July 9: Jamie Textor, New Club President; July 16: McAvoy Layne, The "Ghost" of Mark Twain; July 23: David Isenberg, Member Magazine; July 30: Kathy Suvia, Governor-Elect, District 5160.

Orinda Association. Tuesday July 7, 7 p.m., Zoom meeting. 925.254.0800 or www.orindaassociation.org.

Orinda Chamber of Commerce. July 7, 4 p.m. - Executive Committee Meeting; July

14 - Membership Committee Meeting; July 21 Board Meeting. Meetings via zoom. For more information and zoom link, contact Ally Fatore at president@orindachamber.org.

Orinda Garden Club, PO Box 34, Orinda, www.orindagc.org, 925.257.0668.

Orinda Hiking Club. Every weekend and first Wednesday, Ian at 925.254.1465 or www.orindahiking.org.

Orinda Historical Society. Call 925.254.1353 for times and location of meetings and appointments.

Orinda Junior Women's Club. First Tuesday, 7 p.m., www.orindajuniors.org.

Orinda Masonic Lodge #122 F&AM. 9 Altarinda Road, Orinda Masonic Center. For information, call 925.254.5211.

Orinda Rotary. Virtual meeting Wednesday, 12:15 p.m., For information email cmroeder@comcast.net or go to www.orindarotary.org for zoom link.

Orinda Satellite Rotary Club. Second Wednesday. Call Sylvia at 510.224.8548.

Orinda/Tabor (Czech Republic) Sister City Foundation. Fourth Thursday, 7 p.m., social, 7:30 p.m. meeting via Zoom. For more information, 925.254.8260.

Orinda Woman's Club. Currently meeting virtually Second Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. Email Jean Barnhart at jean.barnhart@gmail.com or go to www.orindawomansclub.org.

Road Runners. Runners meet 5:45 a.m. Tuesday at Papilion (67 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette), Wednesday (Gepettos 87 Orinda Way, Orinda), Thursday (SiSI, 910 Country Club Drive, Moraga) and Friday (Starbucks, 470 Moraga Road, Rheem). For more information, contact John Fazel, runmtns@prodigy.net.

Sons in Retirement (SIR) Lamorinda Branch 174 hosts, via Zoom, a speaker and discussion on the second Wednesday of each month at 11:30 a.m. For info, call Tyler at 925.963.5741 or Bill at 925.963.0442 or go to www.branch174.sirinc2.org.

Send club listings to Jill Gelster at calendar@aspenconsult.

◆ ANDERSON from page 16

but he also recounts his own adventures with her in the United States, including discovering snow for the first time on a trip to Lake Tahoe.

Honorable mentions went to Sajda Amiri ("The Soles beneath Our Feet"), Eloise Anagnost ("The Sound of Silent Stories" and "Beneath the Surface"), Reagan Kaelle ("Goldilocks"), Danielle Kelly ("Russian River"), Audrey Lambert ("Nathan and the Sunflower Girl"), Amber Lee ("Give Peace a Chance"), Willa Mapaye ("To Live"), Rowan Sandhu ("Pick the Dandelions") and Jonathon Su ("My Identity" and "An Introspection: Are Colleges My Soulmates?").

"The smallest feeling of admiration and honor can encourage young people to continue their passions in life. I sincerely hope that these winning writers continue expressing their ideas and creativity and feel this is safe space in which to do it,"

said judge Sarah Morgan.

Each winner received \$500 along with certificates of recognition from the Friends of the Orinda Library. Those achieving honorable mention received \$50 each, plus recognition certificates. Winning and honorable mention entries can be read on the Friends of the Orinda Library website, www.friendsoftheorindalibrary.org.

The contest is named in memory of the late Poul Anderson, a popular writer and Orinda resident. One of the most prolific writers in science fiction, Anderson won many distinguished awards during his career, including the Grand Master Award of the Science Fiction Writers of America for a lifetime of distinguished achievement. He was also the author of over 100 novels and story collections as well as several mysteries and non-fiction books.

Sally Hogarty can be reached at sally@theorindanews.com.



COURTESY OF WENDY MAPAYE
Wendy Mapaye's poem "Sand" won in the poetry division.

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2021 Publication Schedule

Issue	Deadline
July 2021	June 8, 2021
Aug 2021	July 8, 2021

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CALENDAR

On the Calendar in July

Orinda Library Online events. Daily storytimes and events can be viewed at: <https://bit.ly/3gCh7q8>. Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way, is open to the public for Grab and Go service. More information can be viewed at <https://ccclib.org/grab-and-go/>: Open hours are Mon. through Thu., 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Fri. and Sat., 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; closed Sun. Call 925.254.2184 for more information or visit <http://ccclib.org>.

Christian Science Church Prayer Garden open to all for Quiet Meditation. Everyone seeking a better sense of peace will find a welcoming haven in an outdoor setting. Pray, read, meditate. Books and periodicals with a spiritual perspective on current issues are free to all. You are welcome anytime during daylight hours. 24 Orinda Way.

1 **Art Gallery at Wilder Virtual Exhibit** Sophie “Sanders’ Bouquets” describes themed drawings sure to delight; each drawing is a floral world unto itself. Available online through July 31 at

www.lamorindaarts.org/online-galleries. See article p. 20.

Art Gallery at the Orinda Library view “85 Inspired Artworks Escape Local Studios” in person at the newly opened gallery and online at www.lamorindaarts.org/online-galleries through July 31. Meet the 41 local artists at their outdoor reception on July 10, 3:30-5:30 See article p. 21.

Orinda Parks and Recreation accepting applications for summer camps Session III (July 6 - 16), Session IV (July 19 - 30) and Session V (Aug. 2 - 6). www.OrindaParksandRec.org. See ad pg. 14.

Taste of the World Market, 5 p.m. Weekly food truck event features a different mix of trucks and entertainment. To see which food trucks will be present, visit www.tasteoftheworldmarket.com/calendar-agenda-style/. Also, July, 8, 15, 22, and 29.

4 **The Orinda Association** 4th of July Celebration and Best Home Town Parade. Celebration begins at 9 a.m. with flag raising. See article p. 11.

5 **Orinda Farmers’ Market**. 9 a.m. Orinda Way in front of Rite Aid and the Community Park. www.cccfm.org or market hotline at 925.431.8361. Also July 12, 19, and 26. See article p. 23.

Oakland Strokes Session 3 Monday July 5 - Friday July 9; Session 4 Monday July 12 - Friday July 16; Session 5 Monday July 26 - Friday July 30. To join or for more information, go to: www.oaklandstrokes.org.

6 **Orinda Books Pat’s Book Club** will meet via ZOOM to discuss *A Woman of No Importance* by Sonia Purnel. 4 p.m. All are welcome. The book is available at Orinda Books. To attend, phone 925.254.7606 or email info@orindabooks.com giving your email address. You will receive a link to the event.

7 **The International Film Showcase** will screen the USA premiere of *The Silent Revolution* at the Orinda Theatre through July 13. East German twelfth grade students decide to show solidarity with the victims of the 1956 Hungarian uprising by staging two minutes of silence during classes. Go to www.orindathatre.com for ticket and screen time information. See article p. 9.

10 **Orinda Starlight Village Players** auditions for summer season. Email info@orsvp.org for reservation. Visit www.orsvp.org for season details.

17 **Pacific Chamber Orchestra** presents *Renewal* - Beethoven Symphony #6 “Pastoral,” Symphony #15. Also July 18. For tickets: www.pacificchamberorchestra.org.

20 **Lamorinda Idol** finalists perform live beginning at 6 p.m. at the Orinda Community Park. For more information email idol@lamorindaarts.org or visit www.lamorindaarts.org/idol-2.

25 **Art Embraces Words** - 2 p.m. free Zoom

webinar offered by Lamorinda Arts Council. Participate as an audience member, a writer or an artist. Visit www.lamorindaarts.org/art-embraces-words for details and to register, email literary@lamorindaarts.org or call 925.359.9940.

CITY/FIRE MEETING SCHEDULE

City Council. First and third Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Library Auditorium, 26 Orinda Way. www.cityoforinda.org.

Historic Landmarks Committee. Fourth Tuesday, 3-5 p.m. Call 925.788.7323, www.cityoforinda.org

Moraga-Orinda Fire District. Third Wednesday, 7 p.m. For agenda, go to www.mofd.org/transparency/resources/board-agendas-minutes.

Planning Commission. Second and fourth Tuesdays, 7 p.m., www.cityoforinda.org

Send calendar items to Jill Gelster at calendar@aspenconsult.net.

◆ CAL SHAKES from page 8

Tagatac, Dena Martinez, Herbert Siguenza, Rinabeth Apostle, Rotimi Agbabiaka, Micheal Torres, Brian Rivera, Mozart Pierson and Hugo Carbaja. Visit www.calshakes.org/events/event/el-henry/ for information and tickets.

For audience members not viewing offerings remotely, extensive health and safety information at the Bruns can be found online at www.calshakes.org/cal-shakes-2021-covid-19-safety-precautions/. The Bruns Amphitheater currently functions at one-third capacity, 180 patrons; this may change over time as health regulations change.

Traditionally, most people dress warmly and arrive at the Bruns Amphitheater at 5

p.m. for a 7 p.m. performance to enjoy a picnic on the many outdoor tables and chairs; only food and drink from onsite vendors is permitted.

The Bruns Amphitheater is located at 100 Shakespeare Way in Orinda. There is ample parking, and ADA assistance is available for the short walk up to the Bruns. Their website is chock full of information for theater lovers of all ages. Because they are working remotely, visit www.calshakes.org/ or email them at info@calshakes.org. Enjoy this local jewel nestled in the hills. just a stone’s throw from downtown Orinda.

Elana O’Loskey can be reached at business.orinda@gmail.com.

Parks & Rec’s Camp Orinda is Back

This summer, Orinda Parks and Rec will offer a modified Camp Orinda from noon to 4 p.m., Mon. through Fri., beginning with Session 3 (July 6 – July 16). Participants will participate in traditional camp activities such as arts and crafts, sports, walking treks to local attractions and team-building games at the Orinda Community Center.

Lunch is included from 12pm-1pm, therefore campers do not need to be registered for Camp Connector - BYOL. There will be no travel by bus for field trips as in years past; however, city staffers are currently working on alternative fun Friday options for campers to enjoy. City staff trained in COVID-19 safety protocols will oversee Camp Orinda.



COURTESY OF PARKS AND REC DEPARTMENT
A youngster enjoys the lego camp at Camp Orinda a few years ago.

For more information, visit <https://bit.ly/3xyFB9y> or email OrindaParksandRec@CityofOrinda.org.



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VISUAL ARTS

Orinda Garden Club Members Participate in Bouquets to Art 2021

JANE WISER
Contributing Writer

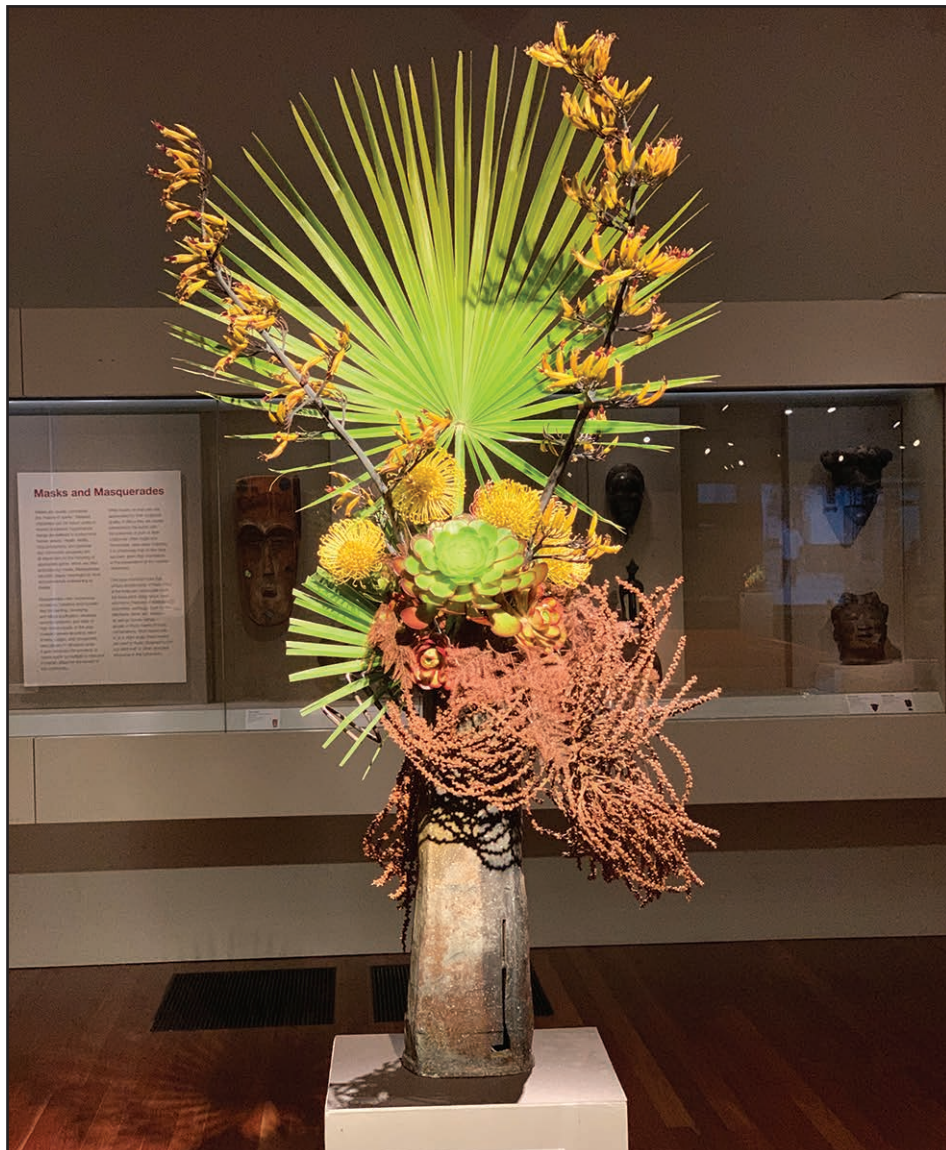
Tradition continued as Bouquets to Art 2021 opened for its 37th year, June 8 to 11 at the De Young. Orinda Garden Club members have participated in the spectacular floral event for years. Diana Kennedy and Phoebe Kahl celebrate their 23rd year as participants, joined by Mari Tischenko, who represented the Club with a separate arrangement.

“It was a challenge we looked forward to and found very exciting,” said Kennedy.

She said members of the club went to the museum early in the year, as they do annually, for “Selection Day.” A few weeks later, they got an assignment.

“This year we were assigned a piece of furniture called, Royal Chair from Ghana, Africa,” said Kennedy. “As soon as we received the information, we began brainstorming on our proper container, floral materials and location of where our pedestal will be placed.”

Bouquets to Art was cancelled during [SEE BOUQUETS page 23]



PHOEBE KAHL

The bouquet, created by the Orinda Garden Club for the 23rd annual Bouquets to Art 2021, took a few weeks to create. This floral artwork assignment was based on the Royal Chair from Ghana.



COURTESY OF SOPHIE SANDERS

Sophie Sanders' 13.5" x 10.5" pen and ink drawing, *Flowers for My Mother*, swirls and dances in a floral waltz that would make any mother happy.

Wilder Gallery: Sophie's Lush Bouquets Highlight Elegant Floral Drawings

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

The Lamorinda Arts Council invites you to view a virtual exhibit of drawings by Sophie Sanders during July. All exhibits scheduled at the Art Gallery at Wilder are virtual until COVID-19 restrictions change. View Sanders' online exhibit focusing on elegant floral drawings through images of her artwork at www.lamorindaarts.org/online-galleries.

Sanders was born and grew up in Taiwan. At the age of one, she contracted polio, which severely impacted her ability to walk. Throughout childhood she depended on two crutches to move about. Since she couldn't play with kids outdoors, she spent her time learning how to draw. Fast forward to the Bay Area where in 1979 she enrolled at the California College of Arts and Crafts (now called California College of the Arts); in 1982, she earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts. She married and lived on the East Coast for a while before relocating back to the Bay Area in 2008.

Due to Post-Polio Syndrome (known as PPS), under medical advice, she began using a wheelchair for mobility in 1989. This helps her conserve her dwindling energy, which she prefers to use creating drawings and paintings. These creations give her a sense of liberation – something not available to her in the physical world. She keeps developing her skills and talent for drawing and painting because working from pure imagination allows her to construct a world filled with beauty, harmony and whimsy.

Sanders explained, “I just draw or paint whatever happens to come to my mind, either from imagination or from memory, in the moment. It is truly ‘playing’ on paper! Accuracy is not my concern, but ‘having fun’ on paper is! My main goal in creating art works is to be liberated from reality,

to gain a form of freedom, which doesn't exist in reality due to my severe disability.”

The world she inhabits in her art is far from any wheelchair. The way she links lines and shapes into a lush floral reality filled with interesting details begs you to linger. Each drawing is a world unto itself, a look at floral whorls and twirls you never imagined could live together in such harmony. Her drawings offer us bouquets from her imaginary garden.

The Art Gallery at Wilder is virtual, still closed due to COVID-19 restrictions. If you have any questions about Sanders' artwork or the exhibit, please contact Curators Denise Nomura and Aniston Breslin at wildergallery@lamorindaarts.org. At press time it was unknown when Wilder will reopen; please check www.lamorindaarts.org/current-exhibits-wilder/ for up-to-date information.

Elana O'Loskey can be reached at business.orinda@gmail.com.



COURTESY OF SOPHIE SANDERS

Flowers for My Family is a 17.5"x23.5" pen and ink with watercolor piece by Sophie Sanders.

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VISUAL ARTS

COVID-19 Retrospective - 80 Inspired Artworks Escape Local Studios

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

Artworks from 40 artists previously sequestered in studios since March, 2020 have finally escaped into the light.

The Lamorinda Arts Council invites you to view an entire gallery of inspiring artwork in the Art Gallery at the Orinda Library during the month of July. This is the first post-COVID-19 exhibit where the whole gallery has opened to the public.

Meet the artists at an outdoor reception in their honor Saturday, July 10 from 3:30 – 5:30 p.m. on the patio adjacent to the Gallery. The Council thanks Todd Trimble and Steve Ehrhardt of Orinda Parks and Rec. for their assistance in reopening the entire Gallery.

Curators Maggie Boscoe and Bill Carmel are delighted to display this unprecedented outpouring of local talent of over 80 artworks including paintings, fabric art, mixed media, photographs, ceramics and turned wood. Much of the work was created during the pandemic. In a special tribute to the reemergence of local artists, *The Orinda News* features a slideshow of 25 artworks curated from artworks on display at the gallery in its online edition. Access these photos at www.theorindanews.com/orinda-library-gallery/.

Because the Council reconfigured all scheduled art exhibits to be virtual until COVID-19 restrictions changed, artists scheduled from March 2020 through the



COURTESY OF ELLEN REINTJES

Ellen Reintjes has a series of paintings beginning with the title, "Name That Tune." When you view *Name That Tune* ___+___ *Forever*, musicologists will note the musician is playing a euphonium. Reintjes says, "Think of it as a 4-valve baritone horn. The model is my husband, Don Tatzin, who plays with the Walnut Creek Concert Band." Fortunately, filling in the blanks to "name that tune" is easier than naming the instrument.

present were unable to show work in a brick and mortar gallery. The Council redesigned its website so art lovers could easily view photographs and videos of exhibiting artists' creative work during their scheduled exhibit month. Artwork was, and still is, available for purchase online. Boscoe said, "The virtual gallery turned out to be such a good idea we are retaining it for the foreseeable future."

The 40 featured artists at press time included: Suzun Almquist, Dana Beebe, Julie Bradner, Barbara Brady-Smith, Eddie Brooks, Lorelee Chapleau, Lassie Cole-

bourn, Marie Cotter, Jeanette Crawford Baird, George Ehrenhaft, Claire Finne, David Fleisig, Sylvia Fones, Therese Gladstone Gordon, Lisa Gunn, Irene Herrera McDonough, Karen Hildebrand, Lance Jackson, Kimiko Kogure, Brad Krebs, Alecia Larson, Margaret Mason, Sara Michael, Robin Moore, Felicie Morris, Tina and Rick Nelson, Denise Nomura, Jane Raymond, Ellen Reintjes, Iris Sabre, Maria SantoStefano, Ruth Stanton, Karl Stinson, Mary Claire Stotler, Hallie Stroock, Joanne Taeuffer, Sharon Tama, Taki Tu, Marcy Wheeler and

Polly Ziolkowski.

Participating artists include individual artists and artists in local groups such as Bay Area Studio Artists, The Glover Group, Oakland Art Association, Lamorinda Arts Council, Bay Area Woodturners, Monteverde Senior Village and Lamorinda Arts Alliance. View artwork online from all exhibitors at the Council's virtual gallery, www.lamorindaarts.org/online-galleries/. The Council thanks contributing artists for their cooperation in providing photographs and videos for their virtual exhibit. If you are interested in learning more about the exhibit or getting in touch with any of the artists, email curators Boscoe and Carmel at gallery@lamorindaarts.org or call 925.359.9940.

This exhibit runs July 1 through 31 during normal Library hours in the Art Gallery at the Orinda Library at 26 Orinda Way. Hours are Mon. – Thur., 10 a.m. – 8 p.m., Fri. – Sat., 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., closed Sun. All libraries are closed Mon., July 5.

Call 925.254.2184 for more information about the Library, or visit <http://ccclib.org/>. Thanks to Orinda Library Manager Michael Beller and his staff for their assistance in ensuring COVID-19 regulations are observed for everyone's safety. To learn more about the Lamorinda Arts Council, go to www.lamorindaarts.org.

Elana O'Loskey can be reached at business.orinda@gmail.com.



COURTESY OF SHARON TAMA

Annie Leibovitz: *Vision in Focus* is an acrylic painting by Sharon Tama.



COURTESY OF RICK NELSON

Rick Nelson's *Tall Vase* is made of recycled redwood and pine.

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LOCAL GUEST SPEAKERS / AUTHOR

Guest Speaker Series of Local High School Graduates Hosted by SIR

By CHARLEEN EARLEY
Editor-in-Chief

When Bill Wadsworth began putting together a speaker series for the Sons in Retirement (SIR), Lamorinda Branch 174, he didn't realize a theme, which he now calls, "Local High School Grads Make Good in the World," would evolve.

Given that he's part of the SIR committee that arranges speakers, he immediately thought of Nicolle Devenish Wallace, a nationally known political analyst and anchor of MSNBC news and politics program, *Deadline: White House*.

"I had been thinking of Nicolle Wallace because she graduated from Miramonte near the time my two sons were there," said Wadsworth. "I located her speaking representative on the Internet and sent in a request for a pro-bono Zoom presentation via their online form."

A few days later and to his surprise, she said yes.

Wallace spoke on June 9 about what she called "News of the day, politics and covering politics and a White House after working in politics and a White House."

Whenever she gives talks, Wallace hopes attendees are blunt and honest with their interaction with her.

"I usually take more away from the viewers than they take away from me," said Wallace, who was born and raised in Orinda and graduated from Miramonte in 1990.

SIR's Aug. 11 speaker is Tia Wallace Kratter, who, hopefully, will be in person by then.

Kratter is a 1975 Campolindo High School graduate. She's also an accomplished artist and one of the first employees at Pixar where she was a Shader Art Direc-

tor for 20 years, working on such films as *Monster's Inc.*, *A Bug's Life* and many more.

She will share a behind-the-scenes glimpse of how great animated films are created.

Currently a Visual Development Artist for Disney, Kratter was born on the Island of Kwajalein (far out in the Pacific) and raised in Orinda.

She spoke about her part in the creative process.

"A visual development artist works with the art team to help create the look and feel of a particular film," she said. "It can take a year or two or three to come up with the visual language for an animated film, but this is truly the fun part of working on a project. One gets to research, explore and create a whole new world."

She hopes attendees will have a greater appreciation of films after her talk.

"I'll want them to get a deeper insight into what it takes to make memorable, heartfelt and lasting films – ones that your grandchildren are probably watching incessantly!" she said. "As much as I'd like to say it's the great art that makes the movie, it's really the story that is paramount to creating truly memorable films."

Creating a theme of local high school graduates making good in the world, was not what Wadsworth planned, but he's happy it turned out that way.

"I think it's important to hear these stories because Lamorinda is home to most of our SIR members and many have children and grandchildren in the area that they influence," said Wadsworth. "I also believe that the foundation of our community will be stronger if we each remind ourselves that it does 'take a village.' And just because those of us in SIR are in our 70s or older, we

still have a responsibility to work to ensure that our youth are effectively educated and gain the tools to make a significant difference through their work."

Their first speaker in April was Sara Lamson Nathan, an Acalanes High School graduate and currently CEO and President of Amigos de Las Americas, an international non-profit that empowers youth to become lifelong leaders who share responsibility for global community.

SIR is a nonprofit, public benefit organization with a mission to improve the lives of its members through fun activities, events and making new friendships. It is open to retired or semi-retired men, regardless of age, race, color or religion.

SIR has roughly 13,000 members within 120 branches; local branch 174 has about 125 members. Wadsworth said he joined in 2015 "primarily to have a group to play golf with a couple of times a month."

While speaker events are only open to SIR members and their guests, anyone interested may contact Wadsworth directly at wadsy1@aol.com to get the link to a recording of any presentation.



COURTESY OF TIA WALLACE KRATTER
Fall speaker, **Tia Wallace Kratter**, who might speak in-person instead of Zoom, will share a behind-the-scenes glimpse of how great animated films are created. Kratter was one of the first employees at Pixar.

For more information about SIR, visit www.branch174.sirinc2.org.

Charleen Earley can be reached at editor@theorindanews.com.

Tubach's Latest Novel is Multi-Layered with Comedy and Suspense

By CHARLEEN EARLEY
Editor-in-Chief

Orinda resident Sally Patterson Tubach had her second novel published last year, this one titled *The Grande Dame and Hitler's Twin: A Comedy of Errors*. So far, she has garnered rave reviews from readers from across the globe.

"A splendid world opened up in this story. I felt completely drawn into a vortex, not of hate and destruction, but a fire of love and transformation. What an artistic creation! The magic wand held up at the end is superb, a surprise. The reader can find great originality, thoughtfulness and allegory in this book," wrote Trudi Frei, of *USA/Switzerland*, paired with her five-star review on Amazon.com.

Tubach said the inspiration for this book came from learning about the Holocaust back in high school.

"I wondered how a culture that produced a Bach, Mozart, Beethoven and enlightened writers such as Lessing, Schiller and Goethe, could also produce an Adolf Hit-

ler, World War II and the Holocaust," said Tubach, who studied German at UCLA, in Göttingen and Munich and later earned a Ph.D. in German Literature at UC Berkeley.

Born in Santa Monica, raised in Potrero Canyon in Pacific Palisades, Tubach said she's lived in Orinda since 1976, "when I married my husband and became stepmother to his two children whose mother had died."

Semi-retired, Tubach is a part-time freelance writer. Her husband Frederic Tubach is a retired UC Berkeley professor. Together, they have lived abroad and traveled frequently over the years.

Tubach hoped *The Grande Dame and Hitler's Twin: A Comedy of Errors*, published Oct. 19, 2020, during the pandemic, would offer a healthy, mental break for readers.

"It is a comedy of errors, so I hope that my cast of quirky characters and their comic missteps and misunderstandings will amuse and make readers laugh," she said. "Some readers have said it provided

[SEE TUBACH page 23]

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SEASONED SHOPPER



BARBARA KOBSAR 

It's summertime and sweet corn is waiting at your local farmer's market – ready to eat fresh, add to salads or pop on the grill.

Sweet corn is harvested young before the sugar has a chance to turn into starch. Supersweet varieties (yellow, white and bicolor) produce and retain natural sugars for an enhanced sweet flavor.

Dent or field corn, another type of corn left on the cob to dry, then gets sold as a grain to feed livestock, or gets processed into flour, cornmeal, starch and oil. Flint corn, also called Indian corn or calico corn, is harder than dent corn and boasts a wide range of colors. It's prized for a high nutrient value. When dried, it's used for corn meal, hominy and polenta.

Back to the sweet corn of summer! Choose ears of corn with green, moist, snug fitting husks. End silk should be golden brown and dry, the ears full and plump and the stem end moist. Cobs coming to market on ice offer the sweetest, freshest flavor!

Many stands display a freshly husked cob of corn on top of the pile to give shoppers a visual "taste." What to look for? Plump looking kernels in tight rows that come all the way up to the ear's top. White varieties tend to outsell yellow varieties, but the choice is yours!

Grill or roast fresh corn for the most flavor and more convenience when serving a crowd. If you want plump and extra juicy corn on the cob, try microwaving, steaming or boiling.

Shop the farmers market for all the ingredients to make this delicious Corn Salad, a quick and easy make-ahead:

FRESH CORN SALAD

- 2 cobs fresh corn, kernels sliced off
- 1 firm tomato, seeded and chopped OR 1 cup cherry tomatoes cut in half
- 1 small cucumber, diced
- 1 tablespoon fresh cilantro or parsley, chopped
- 1 – 2 tablespoons chopped green onion

Dressing: Combine 3 tablespoons olive oil, 1 tablespoon fresh lime juice, 1 small



BARBARA KOBSAR
Sweet corn is in abundance and waiting at your local farmer's market, ready to eat fresh, add to salads or pop on the grill.

jalapeno (seeded and minced), ¼ teaspoon salt and 3 tablespoons Cottage Kitchen Red Pepper Jelly.

Combine salad ingredients. Mix in dressing. Refrigerate until ready to serve. Serves 4.

The Orinda market is open every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Orinda Way in Orinda Village. More information is available at www.cccfm.org, [facebook.com/OrindaFarmersMarket](https://www.facebook.com/OrindaFarmersMarket) and Instagram at [OrindaFarmersMarket](https://www.instagram.com/OrindaFarmersMarket), or call the market hotline: 925.431.8361.

Barbara Kobsar sells her Cottage Kitchen jams and jellies at the JAM STAND at the Saturday Orinda market and at the Walnut Creek market Sunday. She is also president of the CCCFM (Contra Costa Certified Farmers Market) Association Board of Directors.

Barbara Kobsar can be reached at Barbara@cotkitchen.com.

◆ **BOQUETS** from page 20

2020 due to the pandemic. This year, with limited access, it sold out immediately. Fortunately, given post-COVID-19 technology, there is a first ever, virtual tour available, providing an in-depth look at every floral design, filled with behind-the-scenes details. It's free for museum members and

\$10 for the public. The return of Bouquets to Art 2021 was welcomed by all who enjoy novel creativity and floral displays. Visit <https://deyoung.famsf.org/bouquets-to-art> for more information.

Jane Wisner can be reached at editor@theorindanews.com.

◆ **TUBACH** from page 22

a welcome diversion from the anxieties of the pandemic and the troubled state of the world. But beyond escapism, and since I come down on the side of 'nurture' in the 'nurture verses nature' debate, I hope that readers will challenge their assumptions about the genetic determination of human behavior and about identity politics."

Tubach addresses the cognitive dissonance some readers might experience in seeing the words "Hitler's Twin" and "Comedy" in the same title sentence.

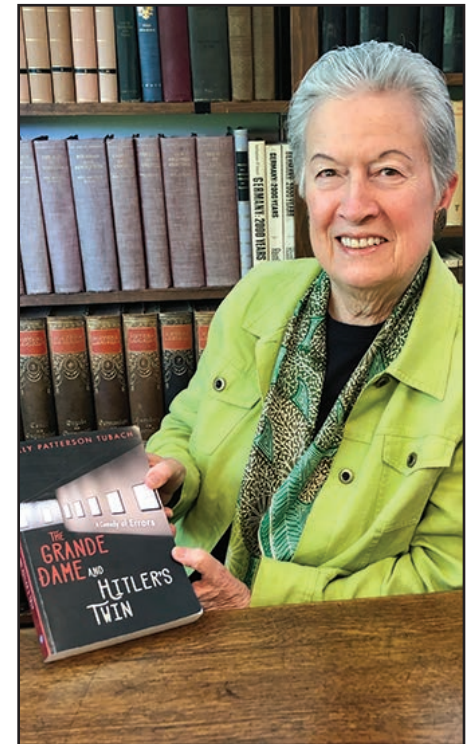
"One of the women in my Berkeley writers critique group outright objected to that juxtaposition while I was still writing the story," said Tubach. "I answered this objection by saying that since I had to use a singular trick of science fiction to bring Hitler's twin into existence in our times and in a San Francisco setting, the novel is a mixed genre that is part fantastical tale – almost a modern fairy tale or speculative tale."

Research for her novel, she said, required collaborations on two books concerned with WWII and the Holocaust. Travel factored into her research as well.

"Extended stays in Germany – and France, where we owned a vacation house in the Languedoc and I have Hitler's twin raised – provided the requisite background to tackle this story that takes place primarily in San Francisco but incorporates numerous side trips to Europe," she said.

Not your typical writer who adheres to strict and disciplined writing routines, "probably because of our busy, stimulating home life and travels," Tubach said when she finds time to write, it's at her home office computer.

"I usually begin by standing at the computer for a couple of hours and later sitting on a sofa with my laptop on my lap," she said. "Late afternoon is my best time. Most days I produce more words writing emails than in my creative writing!"



HERLINDE SPAHR
Long-time Orinda resident, **Sally Tubach**, is author of her newest novel, *The Grande Dame and Hitler's Twin: A Comedy of Errors*, which was recently published by Wipf & Stock in Eugene, Oregon.

Ultimately, Tubach has high hopes her book will enlighten others.

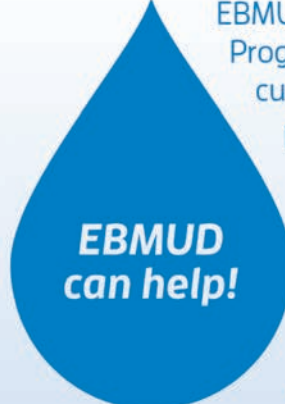
"I hope readers will be moved by a variety of elements, such as its poignant and sensitive look at aging, its sprinkling of magical realism, its satirical look at commercialism in art and literature, its suspense and the complexity of the plot," she said. "I also hope it encourages thoughtful awareness about the emerging, anti-democratic and authoritarian tendencies in our domestic and global politics."

Her book is available at Amazon.com and on the publisher's (Wipf and Stock) website. It can also be ordered at any bookstore including Orinda Books.

Charleen Earley can be reached at editor@theorindanews.com.



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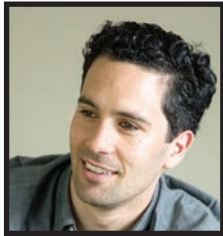
OPEN YEAR ROUND

BUSINESS

FINANCIAL NEWS

PLANNING FOR YOUNG ORINDA'S COLLEGE

DAVID BORN, CFA, CFP



As another crop of Miramonte grads prepares to disperse to universities across the country, the reality of college expenses is coming home to roost for some of their families.

Most inquiring Orinda families learn that financial aid for them only comes in the form of loans. Need-based grants and scholarships taper off greatly just above the poverty line.

Many Orindans also find themselves without tax breaks to lighten the blow. The American Opportunity Tax Credit and Lifetime Learning Credit offer \$5,500 in tax breaks but begins phasing out at \$59,000 of income for single filers.

One very powerful tax break remains undiminished for all income levels: the 529 plan in which savings and earnings can be withdrawn tax free for qualified educational expenses.

One caveat to this opportunity is that you need to have money to put in while there is still time for it to grow. It doesn't help to

put money in and take it out immediately because the tax break is only on the earnings in the account.

The tax benefit can be huge if you invest funds before your student graduates from TOPS, St. Stephen's or Fountainhead pre-schools. The benefits will be less if your student is already a Matador, though that may be an easier time for some families to come up with the money.

The ideal level of funding for a four-year old depends on many unknowns. It's hard to know if that impressive crayon work will lead to a prestigious architectural degree. That's before throwing in a host of external factors, like school price inflation, policy changes and market returns.

The main risk of putting too much in is a 10% penalty on the earnings if withdrawn for non-qualified expenses. The rules are many, but this risk is mitigated somewhat by the ability to transfer the account to a different beneficiary, siblings or some other family members. If a student might qualify for financial aid, the titling of the account is important.

The risk of putting too little in is that you might miss out on a better tax break. Overall, the chances that young parents perfectly fund expenses over a decade away looks slim, but the benefits of getting started to some degree are often worth it.

Send ideas for business features to editor@theorindanews.com.

David Born can be reached at dborn@pfmpartner.com.

Siam Orchid Celebrates 30th Anniversary During Pandemic



TRISTAN SHAUGHNESSY

Owner of Siam Orchid Thai restaurant, Pepsi Phanmongkol and his family have been serving loyal customers since the early 90s. Pivoting during the pandemic was a challenge, but business is now picking back up.

By TRISTAN SHAUGHNESSY
Staff Writer

In 1991, Pepsi Phanmongkol noticed something about Orinda, something significant: there were no Thai restaurants in the city. Absolutely none. So, he opened the Siam Orchid. Now, 30 years later, he says the restaurant is still serving regulars from the '90s.

Located at 23 Orinda Way, Siam Orchid has had a long history, but its award-winning meals have mostly stayed the same. According to Phanmongkol, his wife, Lek, and brother, Nicky, have been cooking for restaurant patrons since its debut. But last year, to stay open, the eatery had to adapt to a pandemic.

Phanmongkol said when lockdown orders came last March the Siam Orchid's business took an immediate nosedive: "Even for me, it was shocking. For the restaurant to be shutting down – like wow! It was a really big hit."

Pivoting exclusively to takeout orders, Phanmongkol said Orindans were initially slow changing dining habits but, by May, 2020, they were used to the idea of ordering takeout. Yet, sales were still noticeably lower compared to pre-pandemic levels.

Besides worrying about the number of customers, Phanmongkol mentioned that

the cost of his ingredients increased. While ordering produce for the restaurant during the pandemic, he said, food deliveries became not only more pricey but also more delayed.

Despite these challenges, Siam Orchid is still up and running, something Phanmongkol attributes to the type of food served: "Because my restaurant serves family style, takeout might be good for customers. You got the fancy restaurants – the food is not good for takeout."

Reflecting on the past few months, Phanmongkol said things have been getting better for the restaurant as more Orindans get vaccinated. But, he is still cautiously waiting for when Siam Orchid reaches pre-pandemic numbers of customers.

Offering dine-in or takeout options while staffing a full bar, the restaurant serves lunch Monday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and dinner everyday from 4:30 to 9 p.m.

Even with new families in the city, Phanmongkol said the area is by and large the same as when he first opened his restaurant.

"I just thank the people who live in Orinda for supporting my restaurant for 30 years," he said.

Tristan Shaughnessy can be reached at tristan.c.shaughnessy@gmail.com.

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